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Volume 4 Number 11

November 1995

Free

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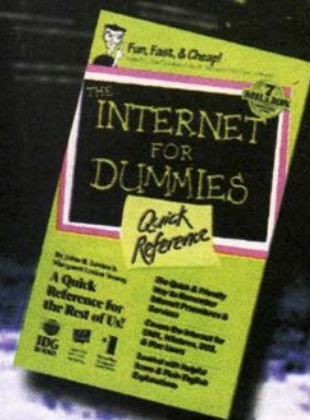




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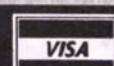
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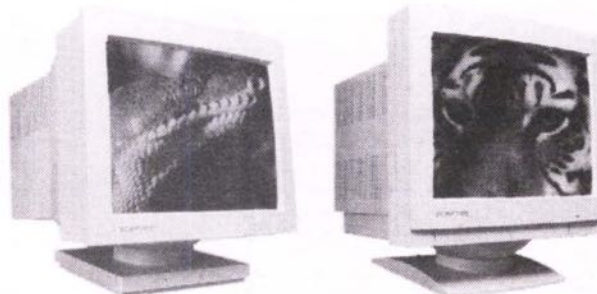
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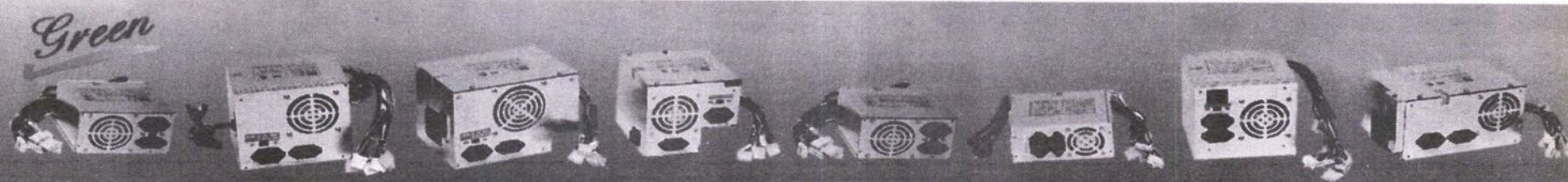


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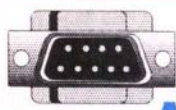
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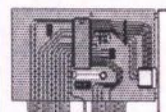
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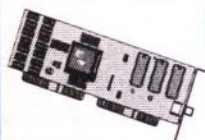
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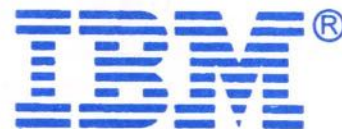
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<b>BERRY Computer</b> BPC586-i90Mhz	<b>\$1,698</b>
<b>BERRY Computer</b> BPC586-i75Mhz	<b>\$1,628</b>

**2 Year Parts & Labour**

<b>BERRY Computer</b> BPC486-a120Mhz	<b>\$1,258</b>
<b>BERRY Computer</b> BPC486-a100Mhz	<b>\$1,169</b>
<b>BERRY Computer</b> BPC486-a80Mhz	<b>\$1,128</b>
<b>BERRY Computer</b> BPC486-a66Mhz	<b>\$1,119</b>

**2 Year Parts & Labour**

**Printers/Modem** ▶ Brother, Canon  
**Hard Drive** ▶ WD, Seagate ..  
**Upgrading** ▶ 486, Pentium ..  
**Repairing** ▶ Computer ...  
**Memory RAM** ▶ 30pin, 72pin  
**Artwork Designs**

**486 System Features**  
Intel Pentium 75/90/100/120/133 CPU  
Intel TRITON Chipset MB w/ 256k Cache  
8 Megabyte Memory RAM  
540 Megabyte Enhanced IDE Hard Drive  
3.5" (1.44MB) Floppy Drive  
PCI Bus Architecture ::  
PCI Video Display w/ 1MB DRAM  
PCI Enhanced IDE Controller  
w/ 2 x 16550 UART Super IO  
Tower-Case (13") Display & 200WPS  
Keyboard & Mouse (3B)  
14" NI SVGA ES (1024x768) Monitor

**486 NoteBooks**  
JETBOOK Symphony  
DX4-75, 8MB Ram, 256MB Hard Drive  
Vesa-Local-Bus, 16 Bit SoundChip  
(Monochrome, DSTN Color, TFT Color)  
SMARTBOOK SoundPro  
DX4-75, 4MB Ram, 256MB Hard Drive  
(Monochrome, DSTN Color, TFT Color)

**486 NoteBooks**  
SCEPTRE SoundX S1000  
DX2-66, 4MB Ram, 340MB Hard Drive  
DX4-75, 4MB Ram, 340MB Hard Drive  
DX4-100, 4MB Ram, 340MB Hard Drive  
Vesa-Local-Bus, 16 Bit SoundChip  
(Monochrome, DSTN Color, TFT Color)

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## NexGen Unveils New Microprocessor

NexGen Inc. has released details about its planned sixth generation x86 microprocessor line.

The chip maker, based in Milpitas, California, says its Nx686 CPU offers up to twice the performance of Intel's Pentium Pro on 16-bit applications and up to 33 percent higher performance on 32-bit code.

NexGen notes that the Nx686 is an x86-compatible superscalar processor with approximately six million transistors. The initial version will run at 180MHz.

The chip features a RISC architecture that decodes multiple instructions per clock cycle into seven execution units: two integer execution, one floating point, one multimedia, one memory load, one memory store, and one branch execution. On-chip caches consist of a 16K instruction cache and a 32K data cache.

NexGen says the chip's die size is projected to be smaller than Intel's announced die size for the Pentium Pro.

The Nx686 is scheduled to become available at about the same time as the Pentium Pro. Initial Pentium Pro shipments are set to begin later this year, with volume shipments slated to begin in 1996.

## Intel Denies Pentium Pro Delay

Intel Corp. CEO Andrew Grove says the company's next generation microprocessor, the Pentium Pro, will go on sale as originally planned in the fourth quarter, reports the Reuter news service.

"We are right on target for the Pentium Pro," says Grove, responding to a recent PC Week report that laimed Intel would delay volume shipments of the new chip to PC manufacturers until 1996 while work on a new, lower-cost CPU was completed.

An Intel spokeswoman confirmed to Reuters that some versions of the chip—formerly code-named P6—were being reviewed and may be delayed, but that the overall product launch remained on schedule.

The Pentium Pro has been criticized by some industry trade publications for reportedly disappointing performance gains. But Grove says the new chip will be twice as fast as the Pentium processor.

## Jeans Maker Buys Software Firm

Custom Clothing Technology Corp., a software company that created technology that allows women to custom-fit jeans at the store, has been acquired by jeans maker Levi Strauss Associates Inc. for an undisclosed price.

Reporting from San Francisco, United Press International notes that Levi Strauss began marketing its Personal Pair jeans last fall under an exclusive agreement with Custom Clothing. Its founder, Sung Park, pioneered the technology that allows a customer—with help from a sales clerk—to enter the necessary body measurements into a computerized kiosk.

Levi Strauss set up the computerized kiosks in all but one of its 16 Original Levi's Stores in the United States and expects to open

10 more in 1996, the wire service adds. Now Custom Clothing becomes a wholly-owned subsidiary of Levi Strauss, remaining in Newton, Massachusetts, and retaining its 11 employees.

## Epson Cuts Scanner Price

Epson America Inc. has cut the price of its Personal Document Station desktop scanner from \$599 to \$449.

The company, based in Torrance, California, says the price reduction is designed to make the product more widely available in the retail channel. The PC-compatible monochrome unit offers a 300 dpi resolution and text and image scanning. Image and optical character recognition (OCR) software is bundled with the sheet-fed device. The scanner also provides file management capabilities and direct e-mail hooks.

## Firm Simplifies I-NET Addresses

Branch Internet Services Inc. is hoping to make long, unintelligible Internet addresses a thing of the past.

Branch, based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, is offering a new service that allows an Internet site to use a shortened, more easily memorized address.

Branch's Internet Image Service allows companies and individuals to appoint their own registered domain names to their World Wide Web sites or e-mail accounts, regardless of their service provider. Large or small Web sites can use the Branch domain services whether hosted by Branch or not.

Branch can also simplify AOL, CompuServe or Prodigy e-mail addresses by forwarding mail using the registered domain name to an existing account.

"In the past, only Web sites hosted on their own servers could use separate domain names," says Jon Zeeff, president of Branch Internet Services. "This meant that companies that could not afford the tens of thousands of dollars to set up their own servers had to host sites on existing servers using long, difficult to remember names."

Service prices start at US\$40 per month.

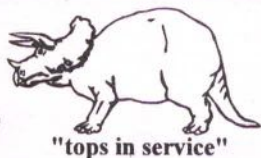
## Internet World Circulation Soars

Mecklermedia Corp. reports that the circulation of its flagship Internet World magazine climbed 87 percent in the first six months of 1995.

The company, based in Westport, Connecticut, says the publication's audited paid circulation rose from 110,856 in November/December 1994 to 207,846 in June 1995. It adds that qualified non-paid circulation brought the total up to 267,698.

"Internet World's growth continues to outpace even our own optimistic projections," says Alan Meckler, chairman and CEO of Mecklermedia. "Very few magazines in the history of the computer magazine industry have been able to post such large percentage gains from period to period. To put it in perspective, Internet World is growing faster than PC Magazine did during its launch in the early 80s."

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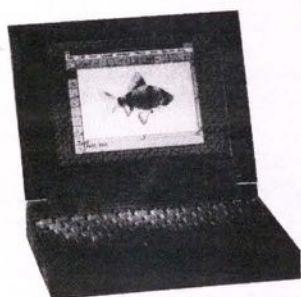


## EPSON ActionNote 650C

\$2599

486DX2/50  
4 MB RAM  
PCMCIA Type III  
260MB Hard Drive  
10.3" Color Screen  
32-bit Local Bus Video  
Built-in 16mm trackball

Monochrome ActionNote650 - \$1959



## EPSON Warranty Service - Supplies - Parts

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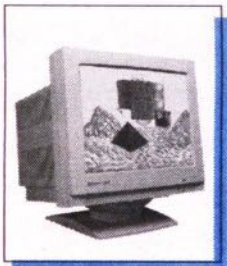


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Multimedia Notebooks  
486 66/100 or Pentium 75/90

- SoundBlaster
- Modular
- NiMH Batt.
- Mono, Active, & DualScan



### SCEPTRE

LCD Panel  
DualScan & Active Matrix LCDs

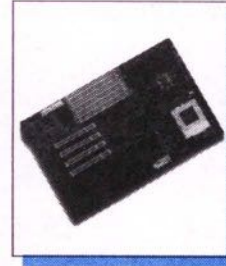
- Space Saving (1.5" deep)
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- Low power consumption



### Acer

AcerOpen Systems  
Pentium & 486 Systems

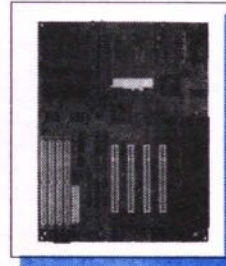
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- Home & Multimedia PCs
- Workstations & Servers



### Acer

Motherboards  
Pentium & 486 Motherboards

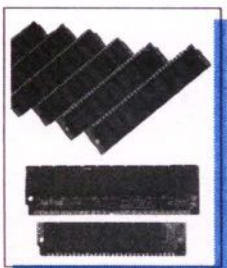
- Acer
- Leo (FIC)
- Ampteron
- 72-pin & 30-pin SIMMs
- Energy Star Compliant



### ASUS

Pentium Motherboards  
System Components

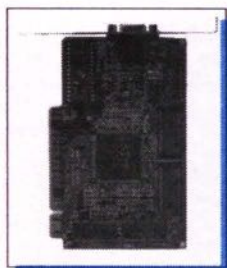
- IP54NP4 Dual Pentium
- EP54NP4 EISA Dual Pentium
- P55TP4XE, Pentium 75-133
- EDO & Pipeline Burst SRAM
- Plug 'n Play, Flash BIOS



### TOSHIBA

Memory Modules  
Premium Japanese & US RAM

- Toshiba
- Hitachi
- Digital, NPN
- NEC, OKI
- Texas Instruments



### DIAMOND

Peripherals

- WD/Paradise, S3, Trident
- Cirrus Logic, ATI, Diamond
- Video with MPEG Playback
- 14.4 & 28.8 FaxModems
- Floppy Drives & Mice



### KME

KME Cases & Power Supplies

- Minitor: 13"
- Tower: 15", 19", 21"
- Server Tower: 26" & Dual
- CSA Power Supplies
- 200W, 230W, 250W, 300W



### CREATIVE

Multimedia

- Creative Labs
- Turtle Beach
- Sony, Panasonic, Toshiba
- CD Titles & Bundles
- EVER Multimedia cases



### WESTERN DIGITAL

Hard Drives

- Western Digital, Seagate
- Maxtor, Conner, Quantum
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- SCSI from 540MB to 9.0GB
- System & Notebook Drives



### Proxcel

Keyboards & Mice

- Proxcel
- Focus
- Keytronic
- Chicony
- NMB

## SCEPTRE®

### Proxcel

Proxcel Pentium/75	\$ 1898
Proxcel Pentium/90	2018
Proxcel Pentium/100	2138
Proxcel Pentium/120	2428
Proxcel Pentium/133	2568



- Intel Pentium Motherboard
- 8MB System RAM, 256k secondary cache
- 850MB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive
- 16550 Enhanced Serial & Enhanced Parallel
- Sceptre 15" 615GL+ Digital, 1280x1024
- 1MB PCI Video Accelerator
- 101-key Proxcel Keyboard
- 19" Tower Case, 230W CSA Power Supply
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- A4 WinMouse

Multimedia Kits:	
■ SoundBlaster 16, 2xCD, Groliers' 96 Suite	\$238
■ SoundBlaster 16, 2xCD, MS Encarta Suite	\$285
■ SoundBlaster 16, 4xCD, MS Encarta Suite	\$425

### Proxcel

#### Proxcel Multimedia 486

Intel 486DX2/66	\$ 1898
AMD 486DX4/100	1898
Intel 486DX4/100	1968



- 486 Vesa Local Bus System
- 8MB System RAM, 256k secondary cache
- 850MB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive
- 16550 Enhanced Serial & Enhanced Parallel
- Sceptre 14" CC61NGL, 1024x768ni, 0.28
- 1MB Vesa Local Bus Video Accelerator
- 101-key Proxcel Keyboard
- Stereo Multimedia Case, 250W CSA Power Supply
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- A4 WinMouse
- 14.4 FaxModemwith Voicemail & Faxback
- SoundBlaster 16 & 2x CD-ROM
- Microsoft Encarta Package
- 2 Years Parts & Labour Warranty

#### Proxcel System Upgrades

DOS 6.22 & Windows 3.11	\$ 125
Microsoft Windows '95	135
4MB SIMM, 72-pin	188
8MB SIMM, 72-pin	358
16MB SIMM, 72-pin	658
Upgr 2x CD-ROM to 4x	100
Upgr 14.4 Modem to 28.8	100
Upgr 14" Sceptre to 15"	188
Upgr 15" Sceptre to 17"	398
Upgr 850MB to 1.2GB HDD	100

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Atech	Cambie	877-1812
Frontier	Vancouver West	739-8060
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Meltronics	Selmon Arm	832-3288
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#### Distributors:



**LAPRO Marketing**

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**DEALERS  
WANTED**



## Triton Station

Intel Pentium Processor with Fan (support up to 150MHz)  
GigaByte Triton chipset PCI/ISA Main Board w/256KB External Cache  
Plug & Play support, ZIF CPU Socket 7 + VRM for Future Intel CPU  
8MB-70ns Fast Page DRAM exp. to 128MB  
1.44MB Floppy Drive  
850MB Fast IDE Hard Drive (Mode 3)  
PCI Enhanced IDE Cont. w/ 2x16550 Serial, 1xBi-Directional Parallel  
Bus Mastering (DMA) Mode (22MB/s)  
PCI ATI Xpression 64-bit Windows Accelerator with 2MB DRAM  
Sceptre 15" Non-Int. Low Rad. SVGA Monitor  
Mid-Tower Case with CSA Power Supply  
101-keys Enhanced Keyboard  
2 Year Parts & Service Warranty



75 MHz	\$1,985
90 MHz	\$2,090
100MHz	\$2,130
120MHz	\$2,455
133MHz	\$2,595

**EDO  
MEMORY  
UPGRADABLE**

## Triton Station Plus

Intel Pentium Processor with Fan (support up to 133MHz)  
Triton chipset PCI/ISA Main Board w/256KB Pipeline Burst Cache  
8MB-70ns EDO Performance Enhanced DRAM exp. to 128MB  
1.44MB Floppy Drive  
850MB Fast IDE Hard Drive (Mode 3)  
PCI Enhanced IDE Cont. w/ 2x16550 Serial, 1xBi-Directional Parallel  
Support up to 4 IDE Hard Drive, Max. Transfer Rate up to 16MB/Sec  
Integrated 8 x 32-bit buffer for PCI IDE Burst Transfers  
PCI ATI Xpression 64-bit Windows Accelerator with 2MB DRAM  
Sceptre 15" Non-Int. Low Rad. SVGA Monitor  
Mid-Tower Case with CSA Power Supply  
101-keys Enhanced Keyboard  
2 Year Parts & Service Warranty

**EDO  
MEMORY  
INSTALLED**

75 MHz	\$2,110
90 MHz	\$2,215
100MHz	\$2,255
120MHz	\$2,580
133MHz	\$2,720

**New  
Price  
!!**

## CreativeLabs \$388

**4X CD Value Kit** Includes 11 Software Titles  
**MS CD Bundle for \$88 With Purchase of 4X CD Kit:**  
Encarta 95, Works 3.0, Money 3.0, Scenes,  
Golf, Dangerous Creatures, Entertainment 4

## IDE Hard Drive Special !!

ENHANCED 540MB	\$228
<b>IDE</b> 850MB	\$270
1.08GB	\$330

**HARD  
DRIVE**

## Free Installation

VESA Main Board 256 KB Cache w/486 DX2-66MHz	w/486 DX4100MHz
<b>\$205.00</b>	<b>\$265.00</b>

## Power Station

Features:  
Intel Pentium CPU with Fan  
Gigabyte Pentium PCI/ISA Main Board  
w/256KB External Cache (Max. 1MB)  
8MB-70ns Fast Page DRAM exp. to 192MB  
1.44MB Floppy Drive  
540MB Fast IDE Hard Drive (Mode 3)  
PCI Enhanced IDE Controller (Mode 3 & 4)  
PCI Cirrus Logic 5434 Windows Accelerator  
with 1MB DRAM (expandable to 2MB)  
2x16550 UART Serial, 1 Bi-Directional Parallel  
14" Non-Int Low Rad. SVGA Monitor .28mm dp  
Mid-Tower Case with 230W CSA Power Supply  
101-keys Enhanced Keyboard  
2 Year Parts & Service Warranty

**64Bit  
VIDEO**

## PENTIUM

75MHz	\$1,650
90MHz	\$1,755
100MHz	\$1,795

## Power Station Lite

Features:  
Cyrix 5x86-100 Processor  
Gigabyte PCI/ISA Main Board  
w/256KB External Cache (Max. 1MB)  
4MB-70ns Fast Page DRAM exp. to 192MB  
1.44MB Floppy Drive  
540MB Fast IDE Hard Drive (Mode 3)  
PCI Enhanced IDE Controller (Mode 3 & 4)  
PCI Trident 9440 Windows Accelerator  
with 1MB DRAM  
2x16550 UART Serial, 1 Bi-Directional Parallel  
14" Non Int. Low Rad. SVGA Monitor .28mm dp  
Mini-Tower Case with CSA Power Supply  
101-keys Enhanced Keyboard  
2 Year Parts & Service Warranty

**Faster Than  
Pentium 75**

## CYRIX 5x86

As Low As

**\$1,325**

## Multimedia System

Features:  
Gigabyte 486 VESA/ISA Main Board  
P24T upgradable w/256KB External Cache  
4MB-70ns Fast Page DRAM exp. to 128MB  
1.44MB Floppy Drive  
540MB Fast IDE Hard Drive (Enhanced Mode 3)  
VESA Local Bus FDD/Enhanced IDE Controller  
VESA Cirrus Logic 5429 Windows Accelerator  
with 1MB DRAM (expandable to 2MB)  
2 Serial, 1 Parallel & 1 Game Port  
14" Non-Int Low Rad SVGA Monitor .28mm dp  
Mid-Tower Case with 230W CSA Power Supply  
101-keys Enhanced Keyboard, Speakers  
Sound Blaster 16 Card, 2x Speed CD-ROM  
2 Year Parts & Service Warranty

486	INTEL	AMD
DX2-66	\$1,415	\$1,332
DX4-100	\$1,477	\$1,392
DX4-120		\$1,417

## Impression

Features:  
Gigabyte 486 VESA/ISA Main Board  
P24T upgradable w/256KB External Cache  
4MB-70ns Fast Page DRAM exp. to 128MB  
1.44MB Floppy Drive  
540MB Fast IDE Hard Drive (Enhanced Mode 3)  
VESA Local Bus FDD/Enhanced IDE Controller  
VESA Cirrus Logic 5429 Windows Accelerator  
with 1MB DRAM (expandable to 2MB)  
2 Serial, 1 Parallel & 1 Game Port  
14" Non-Int Low Rad. SVGA Monitor .28mm dp  
Mini-Tower Case with CSA Power Supply  
101-keys Enhanced Keyboard  
2 Year Parts & Service Warranty

**PCI Bus  
w/ FAST I/O &  
64 BIT VIDEO  
\$ 55 more**

486	INTEL	AMD
DX2-66	\$1,208	\$1,125
DX4-100	\$1,270	\$1,185
DX4-120		\$1,210

## Video Graphics Adaptors

ATI Mach 64 Xpression VLB/PCI w/2MB DRAM	\$240.00
ATI Mach 64 WinTurbo VLB/PCI w/2MB VRAM	\$359.00
ATI Mach 64 Win Turbo VLB/PCI w/4MB VRAM	\$610.00
ATI Mach 64 Graphic Pro Turbo VLB/PCI w/2MB VRAM	\$457.00
Diamond Stealth 64 Video PCI w/1MB DRAM	\$180.00
Diamond Stealth 64 Video PCI w/2MB DRAM	\$245.00
Diamond Stealth 64 Video 3200 PCI w/2MB VRAM	\$359.00
Diamond Stealth 64 Video VLB/PCI w/2MB VRAM	\$477.00
Diamond Stealth 64 Video VLB/PCI w/4MB VRAM	\$699.00
Cirrus Logic 5429 VLB w/1MB exp. to 2MB	\$93.00
Cirrus Logic 5434 PCI w/1MB exp. to 2MB	\$132.00
S3-864 64-Bit PCI w/1MB exp. to 2MB	\$135.00
Trident 9440 PCI w/1MB exp. to 2MB	\$93.00

## Monitors

Sceptre 14" N/LR (1024X768, 28mmDP)	\$300.00
Sceptre 15" N/LR (1280X1024, 28mmDP)	\$470.00
CompuPartner 14" N/LR (1024X768, 28mmDP)	\$330.00
CompuPartner 17" N/LR (1280X1024, 28mmDP)	\$805.00
ADI 4GP 15" N/LR (1280X1024, 28mmDP)	\$540.00
ADI 5EP 17" N/LR (1280X1024, 28mmDP)	\$890.00
Mag DX15F 15" N/LR (1280X1024, 28mmDP)	\$499.00
Mag DX17F 17" N/LR (1280X1024, 28mmDP)	\$935.00
Sony 15SF 15" N/LR (1280X1024, 25mmDP)	\$680.00
Sony 17SF 17" N/LR (1280X1024, 25mmDP)	\$1295.00
Sony 17SE 17" N/LR (1600X1280, 25mmDP)	\$1540.00

## HD/FD Controllers

ISA IDE HD/FD Controller with I/O	\$19.00
VLB Enhanced IDE with I/O	\$30.00

VLB Enhanced IDE with I/O UART 16550	\$45.00
Adaptec 1505 SCSI CD-ROM Controller	\$75.00
Adaptec 1542CF SCSI HD/FD Controller	\$285.00
Adaptec 1542CF SCSI Controller w/Kit	\$365.00
Adaptec 2940 PCI SCSI Controller	\$365.00
Adaptec 2940W PCI SCSI Controller	\$490.00
Adaptec 3940 PCI Multi-Channel SCSI Controller	\$595.00

## Keyboards & Cases

Fujitsu 4720 Enhanced 101 Keys	\$59.00
Fujitsu 8720 Enhanced 101 Keys	\$33.00
Mitsumi Windows 95 Keyboard	\$35.00
Enhanced 101-Keys	\$25.00
Microsoft Natural Keyboard	\$119.00
Full Size Tower with 230W CSA Power Supply	\$120.00
Mid Size Tower with 230W CSA Power Supply	\$80.00
Mini Size Tower with 200W CSA Power Supply	\$60.00
Desktop with 200W CSA Power Supply	\$65.00

## Drives & Tape Backup

1.2MB 5.25" Floppy Drive	\$63.00
1.44MB 3.5" Floppy Drive	\$43.00
Enhanced 540MB IDE Hard Drive	\$228.00
Enhanced 850MB IDE Hard Drive	\$270.00
Enhanced 1.2GB IDE Hard Drive	\$355.00
Enhanced 1.6GB IDE Hard Drive	\$545.00
Seagate 1.0GB SCSI-2 Hard Drive	\$490.00
Seagate 2.1GB SCSI-2 Hard Drive	\$1050.00
Seagate 4.26GB SCSI-2 Hard Drive	\$1430.00
Seagate 9.0GB SCSI-2 Hard Drive	\$3450.00
Colorado DJ-35 Jumbo 350MB Backup Drive	\$180.00
Colorado DJ-25 Jumbo 700MB Backup Drive	\$293.00

Colorado DJ-50 Jumbo 1.36GB Backup Drive	\$345.00
Conner 420MB Tape Backup Drive	\$190.00
Conner 850MB Tape Backup Drive	\$295.00
Conner 800MB Travan Tape Backup Drive	\$255.00

## Motherboards

Triton Pentium 75/90MHz PCI/ISA w/256KB Cache	\$550/655
Advanced/EV 75MHz PCI/ISA w/256KB Burst Cache	\$815.00
Gigabyte Pentium 75/90MHz PCI/ISA w/256KB Cache	\$530/635
Cyrix 5x86-100 PCI w/256KB Cache	\$430.00
Gigabyte 486DX2-66/486DX4-100 PCI w/256KB Cache	\$260/320
486DX2-66/DX4-100 VLB w/256KB Cache	\$205/265

## MultiMedia

Creative Labs 4X Performance	\$555.00
Creative Labs 4X Multimedia Home	\$575.00
Creative Labs 4X Digital School House	\$475.00
Creative Labs Sound Blaster 16 MCD (OEM)	\$110.00
Creative Labs Sound Blaster 16 SCSI (OEM)	\$170.00
Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE32	\$360.00
Creative Labs Sound Blaster 32	\$225.00
Diamond 8000 8x Multimedia Kit	\$760.00
Panasonic 2X Double Speed IDE CD-ROM Drive	\$78.00
Panasonic 4X Quad Speed IDE CD-ROM Drive	\$199.00
Creative Labs 6X Speed IDE CD ROM Drive	\$415.00
Toshiba 3601 4.4X Quad Speed SCSI CD-ROM Drive	\$455.00
NEC 6X Six Speed SCSI CD ROM Drive	\$620.00
Plexstor 6X Six Speed SCSI CD-ROM Drive	\$710.00

## Memory

16MB-70ns SIMM (72-pin)	C a l l
8MB-70ns SIMM (72-pin)	C a l l

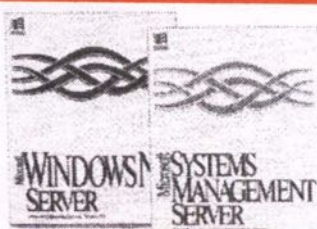
4MB-70ns SIMM (72-pin)	C a l l
1MB-70ns SIMM (30-pin)	C a l l

## Modems & Mice

14.4 S/R Int. Fax Modem	\$69.00
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- 14.4K Internal Fax Modem w/voice
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Microdyne NE2000+ BNC	\$141
SMC Ethercard 16 BNC ea/6+	\$135/125
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HP JetDirect J2555A Token Ring DB-9 & RJ45	\$745
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Silicom PCMCIA Ethernet RJ45	\$225
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CNet CN8816TPC 16 Port Hub, Small Footprint	\$460
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CNet CN8910TPC 12 Port Hub w/SNMP	\$1065

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Microdyne NE3300 EISA Combo	\$288
Microdyne NE5500 PCI 10 Base T	\$259
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HP Networks 100VG ISA Adapter	\$280
HP Networks 100VG EISA Adapter	\$345
HP Networks 100VG 15 Port Hub	\$3100
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## Swiss Warn of Net Insecurity

The top information watchdog in the Swiss government is warning Internet users that their data are not safe from manipulation on the global computer network.

Odilo Guntern, the Swiss data protection commissioner, told the Reuter News Service in Zurich he was prompted to speak by the rapid growth in Internet popularity. He said the information superhighway it opens is like "a journey without a safety net."

Said Guntern, "There are no standard international or global rules for protection of information that are legally binding for the Internet beyond national borders."

He noted Net users generally leave behind a data trail when they browse through the system, allowing others to trace their movements, set up profiles of user habits, or even manipulate financial data, all while remaining unseen.

"Generally," he said, "there are no obstacles to copying, altering, falsifying or delaying data in the Internet."

Reuters says the commissioner advised Internet users to set up organizational and

technological safety barriers, including encoding sensitive information or using electronic signatures to mark documents as genuine. "Nevertheless,"

Guntern said, "every person who uses the Internet should be fully aware of the ensuing dangers and risks."

## Sun Unveils New Video Servers

Three new video servers for corporate customers that increase performance by 30 percent to 50 percent over existing systems for the same price have been unveiled by Sun Microsystems Inc.

Pricing for the SPARCserver 1000E and SPARCcenter 2000E servers start at US\$50,100 and US\$125,395, respectively, running on an 85-megahertz processor. Current users can upgrade for US\$5,000 for the 1000E, which is an entry-level server, and US\$9,995 for the 2000E, a mid-range machine.

The servers work as data warehouses for managing customer information. Recent new customers include Intuit, BC Telecom and the Bank of Maryland.

## Netscape Pays for Bug Reports

Netscape Communications Corp.'s new "Bugs Bounty" program offers cash to anyone who finds flaws in the beta version of its new browser software for the Internet's World Wide Web. The first person to identify a major security bug could get \$1,000.

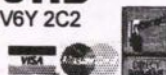
Netscape was embarrassed last month when a group of computerists on the Internet cracked a code in Netscape's browser that was

supposed to protect sensitive information, such as credit-card numbers.

"After months of touting its software as a safe way to conduct credit-card transactions over the Internet," says Rigdon, "Netscape had to eat crow while it fixed the flaw. One of its key customers, the online banking division of Wells Fargo & Co., temporarily shut down its Internet banking center after the bug came to light."

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120 Mhz Pentium processor	\$ 489
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to Stealth 64 Video (MPEG) 2MB DRAM	\$ 199
to 1.2GB hard drive	\$ 149
14" NI green SVGA monitor	\$ 299
15" NI LR green SVGA monitor	\$ 419

Systems come with 2 years parts & labour  
warranty except keyboard & mouse 1 year  
2% surcharge for VISA and M/C, 4% for Amex

## Fax Modem

USR Sportster 28.8 int / w/voice	\$ 259/299
USR Sportster 28.8 extl/ w/voice	\$ 279/329
USR Sportster 14.4 Si internal	\$ 95
USR Courier V.Everything/ Dual Std.	\$ 549/749
Creative Phone Blaster	\$ 339
Creative Modem Blaster 14.4 / 28.8	\$129/279
Megahertz PC Card (PCMCIA) 14.4 XJ	\$ 259
Megahertz PC Card (PCMCIA) 28.8 XJ	\$ 499

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Conner/Maxtor 1.2GB, 2 yrs warranty	\$ 369
Western Digital 850MB, 3 yrs warranty	\$ 299
Western Digital 1.2GB, 3 yrs warranty	\$ 429
HP Colorado 350MB int. tape backup	\$ 199
HP Colorado T1000 int. tape backup	\$ 279
Conner TapeStore 4000 IDE	\$ 789
IOMEGA Zip Drive Parallel or SCSI	\$ 289

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Canon BJC-4000, 720dpi	\$ 479
HP Deskjet 600 (replacing 540), 600dpi	\$ 429
HP Deskjet 660 (replacing 560), 600dpi	\$ 579
HP Laserjet 5P, 2MB, 600dpi, 6ppm	\$ 1279
HP Laserjet 4 plus, 2MB, 600dpi, 12ppm	\$ 2149
Raven 2405 24pin dot-matrix	\$ 229
Raven 2407 24pin dot-matrix colour	\$ 279
HP Scanjet 3P, 300dpi, 256grey	\$ 479
HP Scanjet 3c, 600dpi, 30 bit colour	\$ 1389
Logitech Pictura 24-bit digital camera	\$ 1399

## Robotics

Creative Value 2X/4X	\$ 269/389
Creative Discovery 2X/4X	\$ 389/499
Creative Digital Schoolhouse 2X/4X	\$ 329/479
Creative Multimedia Home 4X	\$ 579
Creative Sound Blaster 32 (wave table)	\$ 229
Creative Vibra 16 (SB 16 OEM)	\$ 99
Toshiba 4X EIDE CD-ROM	\$ 229
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## Network Products

D-Link NE250, NE2000 compatible	\$ 59
Intel EtherExpress Pro/10 RJ45	\$ 129
Lantastic 6.0 5 users	\$ 459
Intel NetportExpress XL print server	\$ 599
Kingston 8-ports RJ-45 hub	\$ 159
Intel LANdesk Mgmt Suite v.2.0, 5 nodes	\$ 559

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Data Archive to CD-ROM (Blank 3M CD \$29)	
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## Epson Ships New Notebooks

Epson is shipping its new ActionNote 890 notebook computer series.

The line, which replaces the firm's ActionNote 800 series, is based on a Cyrix 100MHz DX4-class microprocessor. The ActionNote 890 line includes four models:

the ActionNote 890C, 895C, 890CX, and 895CX. The 890C and 895C feature a dual-scan color display; the 890CX and 895CX offer an active-matrix screen. All models have a 540MB removable hard disk.

The ActionNote 895C and 895CX are multimedia-capable with a built-in 16-bit

stereo sound card, an internal microphone, and a speaker. The systems also feature an integrated 14.4K bps data/fax/voice modem. The sound card and modem are offered as optional equipment on all other ActionNote 890 models.

All ActionNote 890 systems are Windows 95 ready and include an Action Point touchpad pointing device. Other features include 8MB of RAM (expandable to 24MB) and stacked PCMCIA slots. Bundled software includes a choice of DOS, Windows, or Windows 95. Also included are Lotus SmartSuite, NetCom NetCruiser, ARK Workspace, and trial subscriptions to several

online services and the Official Airline Guide FlightDisk. Models with a built-in modem include WinFax Lite and WinCom Lite.

System prices start at US\$2,099.

## Jim Manzi Resigns as Lotus CEO

Just four months after his firm was acquired by IBM in the software industry's biggest merger, Jim P. Manzi has resigned as CEO of Lotus Development Corp., telling employees in a memo that he feels he no longer fits with the company.

"The attributes that I believe made me an effective chief executive of a nearly billion-

dollar independent company, aren't necessarily the attributes required of an executive leading a division within a much larger organization," Manzi wrote. "The challenges that excited me previously aren't necessarily the same challenges we face today."

Manzi has led Lotus since April 1986 and became a senior vice president reporting to Gerstner of IBM after the \$3.5 billion takeover earlier this year. However, Ramstad points out that another senior vice president, John M. Thompson, holds responsibility for IBM's overall software products and strategies.

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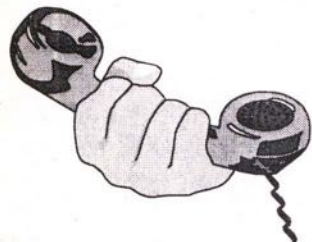
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## call us on all your on-site service needs

networking  
virus removing  
software installation  
hardware trouble shooting



## Network Software &amp; Kit

Microsoft Windows NT v3.51 Workstation	395
Microsoft Windows NT v3.51 Server user 1/10/20	875/1250/1595
Microsoft Windows NT v3.51 client each	55
Microsoft Windows 95 upgrade/full version/ plus	129/255/65

Netware v4.1 (5/10/25/50/100) \$1065/2425/3595/4850/6775

Intel Net Satisfaction ver 3.0 for Windows on Novell network \$1250

2 user hardware Ethernet kit for NT/95 (no software) \$175  
includes 2 GVC 10MB cards, 25' coax cable, 2 terminators

Lantastic AI v6.0 Starter Kit (complete setup for 2 node) \$285  
2 GVC 10MB cards, 2 software, 25' coax cable, 2 terminators

Lantastic AI v6.0 Add-On Kit (complete setup for 1 node) \$155  
1 GVC card, 1 software, 25' coax cable

## Motherboard &amp; RAM

Asus SP3 AMD486DX4-100MHz PCI/VLB MB, 256k, IDEIO	\$345
Asus SP3 486DX4-100MHz PCI/VLB MB, 256k, IDEIO	435
Asus TP4XE Pentium-75MHz PCI/ISA MB, 256k cache, IDEIO	635
Asus TP4XE Pentium-90MHz PCI MB, 256k cache, IDEIO	775
Asus TP4XE Pentium-100MHz PCI MB, 256k, IDEIO	925
Asus TP4XE Pentium-120MHz PCI MB, 256k, IDEIO	1225
Asus TP4XE Pentium-133MHz PCI MB, 256k, IDEIO	1445

\*256k Pipelined Burst Cache available on TP4XE motherboards

\*ask about EDO Memory for Asus' Triton Chipset Motherboards

AMD 486DX4-100MHz CPU 3V	\$145
486 CPU Heatsink / Pentium Heatsink	12/20
1MB/4MB SIMM-70ns (30pin)	55/195
4MB/8MB/16MB SIMM-70ns (72pin) w/o Parity	190/370/695
4MB/8MB/16MB SIMM (72pin) EDO Memory	225/445/895

\*Please call on all Ram prices

## Monitor, Video Card

Daytek 14" SVGA Monitor, 28mm dp, NI, EStar	\$295/320
Daytek 15" SVGA Monitor, 28mm dp, NI, EStar	475
Daytek 17" SVGA Monitor, 28mm dp, NI, EStar	940
ADI 4Gp/LR 15" SVGA Monitor, 28mm dp, NI, EStar	540
ADI 5Ep/LR 17" SVGA Monitor, 28mm dp, NI, EStar	925
Sony 15sf 15" SVGA Monitor, 25mm dp, NI, EStar	725
Sony 17sf 17" SVGA Monitor, 25mm dp, NI, EStar	1340
Sony 17se 17" SVGA Monitor, 25mm dp, NI, EStar	1650

Cirrus Logic 5429 VLB Accelerator w/1MB	\$115
Cirrus Logic 5434 PCI Accelerator w/1MB	145
ATI Mach32 Accelerator w/1MB (ISA/ VLB/PCI)	145
ATI WinBoost Accelerator w/2MB Dram (VLB/PCI)	255
ATI WinTurbo Accelerator w/2MB/4MB Vram (VLB/ PCI)	365/625
Diamond Stealth 64 Video Accelerator w/2MB Dram (PCI)	275
Diamond Stealth 64 Video 3200 w/2MB Vram (PCI)	375
Diamond Stealth 64 Video 3400XL w/4MB Vram (PCI)	695

## Accpac

Windowing system	\$275
General Ledger	795
Accounts Receivable	1025
Accounts Payable	1025
Lanpak users 5/10/20	1435/2388/3225
Order Entry	610
Inventory Control	610
Job Costing	610

Price may change without notice. All prices FOB Richmond. Insurance extra. Advertised prices are cash, add 2% for credit card orders.

## Hard Drive, Controller

Western Digital 635MB EIDE HD, 10ms, 64k cache	\$255
Western Digital 850MB EIDE HD, 10ms, 64k cache	290
Western Digital 1.2GB EIDE HD, 10ms, 64k cache	420
Western Digital 1.6GB EIDE HD, 10ms, 64k cache	555
HP SureStore 1.2GB SCSI-2 HD, 10ms	620
HP SureStore 2.2GB SCSI-2 HD, 10ms	1220
*call for pricing on other drives	
IDE 1:1 HD/FD Adapter w/2S, 1P, 1G	\$25
Enhanced IDE HD/FD VLB Adapter w/2S, 1P, 1G	40
Promise 2300+ VLB Enhanced IDE Card w/Bios	85
Adaptec AH-1542CF ISA SCSI-2 Controller Kit	\$375
Adaptec AH-2842 VLB SCSI-2 Controller Kit	365
Adaptec AH-2940 PCI SCSI-2 Controller Kit	385

## 2000

Windowing system	\$275
General Ledger	795
Accounts Receivable	1025
Accounts Payable	1025
Lanpak users 5/10/20	1435/2388/3225
Order Entry	610
Inventory Control	610
Job Costing	610

## Plus

Windowing system	\$138
General Ledger	610
Accounts Receivable	610
Accounts Payable	610
Lanpak users 5/10/20	4 user 369
Order Entry	610
Inventory Control	610
Job Costing	610

## Network hardware

GVC NE2000 16-bit Ethernet Adapter (BNC/10BT)	\$65
Intel EtherExpress Pro/10 Ethernet card (10BT)	145
3Com 3C509 Etherlink IIIb Ethernet Card (10BT/10B2)	155
DLink PCMCIA Ethernet Adapter (10BT)	150
GVC 8-port 10BaseT hub	255
GVC 16 port 10BaseT hub	495
HP advance stackable 12 port 10BaseT hub	915
HP advance stackable 24 port 10BaseT hub	1500
HP advance stackable 48 port 10BaseT hub	2795
10Mb 10BaseT UTP cables per foot	0.30
100Mb 10BaseT UTP cable per foot	0.75
RJ45 10Mb 10BaseT UTP male plug/female socket	1/10
RJ45 100Mb 10BaseT UTP male plug/female socket	1/20
10Mb BNC coaxial cable per foot	0.30
BNC connector each BNC/T/barra/terminator	3.5/3.5/3.5/5

## Tape, Case, Power

Colorado DJ-35 Tape Backup Drive (350MB Max.)	\$185
Colorado Travan T1000 Tape Backup Drive (800MB Max.)	245
Colorado DJ-50 Tape Backup Drive (1.4GB Max.)	345
Colorado Trakker 350 Parallel Backup (350MB Max.)	345
HP JetStore 2-8GB Internal 4MM Dat Drive	1275
3M DC2120 tape cartridge 120MB capacity	\$20
3M DC2120XL Tapes, (350MB Max.)	25
3M MC3000XL Tapes, (1.4GB Max.)	45
3M DG90M 4MM DAT Tapes	17
Mini-size 13" tower or Desktop w/200W Jaba PS	\$95
Mid-size 19" tower case w/200W Jaba PS	115
Full-size 25" tower case w/250W Jaba PS	165
Full-size 27" tower case w/300W PS 2 fans, wheels	245

## Printer &amp; Accessories

Canon BJ-100 BubbleJet Printer, 360dpi	\$295
HP DeskJet 600 Inkjet Printer, 300dpi, 4ppm	435
HP DeskJet 660c Colour Inkjet Printer, 600dpi, 4ppm(blk)	595
HP LaserJet 5L 1MB 4ppm, 600dpi	725
HP LaserJet 5P 2MB/5MP PS, 3MB, 6ppm, 600dpi	1325/1575
HP LaserJet 4+ 2MB/4M+ PS, 6MB, 12ppm, 600dpi	2175/2945
JetRam card with 1MB for II/III/IIID/IIIP	\$115
HP LaserJet 4/4+4M+ toner cartridge	155
Raven RP-2405 Printer, 24pin, 192cps	\$235
Raven RP-2407 Printer, 24pin, 192cps, Colour Upgradable	295
Raven RP-2420 Printer, 24pin, 256cps, Colour Upgradable	390
Raven RP-2467 Wide CarriagePrinter, 24pin, 240cps	595
Raven Color kit for RP-9105/2406/2420 printer	75
Serial kit for Raven printer RP2406/2420	65
Printer Auto/Rotary Switchbox 2:1/4:1	30/50

## CD-ROM &amp; Others

Panasonic DoubleSpin CD-Rom	\$95
Toshiba QuadSpin CD-Rom 5302B IDE/3601 SCSI-2	225/445
SoundBlaster 16 Vibra Sound Card (OEM)	125
Multimedia Stereo Speakers, 25 Watts	50
Sony CSS-B100 Speaker Set	135
Creative Labs Multimedia Home Office 4X Kit	585
Teac 1.20MB 5.25" Floppy Drive	\$70
Teac 1.44MB 3.5" Floppy Drive / with frame	60/65
Fujitsu KB-8720 Keyboard, 101 Key Soft-Tactile	38
Fujitsu KB-4720 Keyboard, 101 Key Click Tactile	65
MS "Natural" Keyboard	125
Focus 2001/2 Keyboard, 101 Key Enhanced	55
APC Personal SurgeArrest Strip w/Tel	45
APC Professional SurgeArrest Strip	65
APC Back-UPS 280/400/450/600VA	145/215/250/350
APC Smart-UPS 250/400/600/900VA	325/415/495/715

## Computer Systems

486DX4-100MHz (AMD) PCI/VLB Computer Sys. w/Monitor	\$1425
Pentium-75MHz PCI/ISA Computer System w/Monitor	1895
Pentium-90MHz PCI/ISA Computer System w/Monitor	2025
Pentium-100MHz PCI/ISA Computer System w/Monitor	2185
Pentium-120MHz PCI/ISA Computer System w/Monitor	2470
Pentium-133MHz PCI/ISA Computer System w/Monitor	2695

Systems come with the following:  
486: 4MB of Ram, Pentium: 8MB, 635MB EIDE HD; 1.44MB Floppy;  
Daytek 14" SVGA Monitor, 0.28mm dp, NI; CL 5434 PCI w/1MB;  
Mid Size 19" Tower Case w/200W PS, Fujitsu KB-4720 Keyboard

24 hr burn in, 2 years parts and labour warranty  
Sold with systems only:  
MS Mouse \$45, DOS 6.22 \$60, Win 3.11 \$65, Win '95 \$155

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**'Information Poverty' Feared**

A new European study says "information poverty" threatens the developing world because the Internet is concentrated in the richer countries.

A non-governmental organization funded largely by Scandinavian countries, the study by the Panos Institute says 70 percent of computers linked up to the network were in the United States, while fewer than 10 African countries were connected.

Reporter Mark John of the Reuter News Service quotes the study as concluding, "There is a danger of a new information elitism which excludes the majority of the world's population."

In fact, the report says, poor countries

already are being left behind because of the high cost of computer equipment and low literacy rates.

Report author Mike Holderness told Reuters, "The technology could actually increase the gap between rich and poor," but that a modem costs around four times more in India than in the United States. Holderness also estimated that a new computer would represent around six months of the unemployment benefit paid to a jobless Briton or several years' wages for an "underemployed" Indonesian.

Noting that about 80,000 companies are thought to be using the Internet as part of their business, Holderness said these firms are, as a result, likely to export clerical jobs to developing countries, but only those with low labor costs, high literacy, and high network access.

Reuters says there are about 3.4 million "host" computers hooked up to the Internet in the United States and just over 500,000 in west Europe, but Africa had just 27,100 hosts, Central and South America 16,000, and the Middle East 13,800.

Holderness cites two urgent priorities:

- Stepping up existing literacy campaigns in the developing world.
- Relaxing of trade constraints that made computer equipment expensive there.

**Fujitsu Freshens Hard Disk Line**

Five new hard disk drive products are being unveiled by Fujitsu Computer Products of America, a unit of Japan's Fujitsu Ltd.

Reporting from San Jose, Calif., the Dow Jones news service says that for the workstation and file server markets, Fujitsu has introduced the 3.5-inch M293X, M294X and M295X SCSI product lines.

The company says these lines all have 7,200-revolution per minute rotation speeds, 512K cache and 10MB to 40MB per second interface burst data rates. All three product lines are compatible with Novell NetWare and Windows NT.

Here, from the wire service, are specifics:

- The Fujitsu M294X SCSI-2 fast and wide series will ship in the fourth quarter with

# V-COM offers PC Buyers solid consulting

It usually involves confusion with conflicting information, a myriad of different sales persons, and hours of walking and standing around taking notes and not making any progress at all. Not quite what we had in mind when deciding to take the family out for the long awaited PC purchasing expedition.

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**In the business for over 13 years**

V-Com Computers, located on the corner of Marine Drive and Kerr in Vancouver, has been in the business of PC sales and service for over 13 years and it's apparent, right away, why they continue to thrive in this ever changing market.

**Hands on, sit down demonstration systems**

The layout of the main showroom is both practical and comfortable. Demonstration models are set up on "hands on, sit down" workstations so you can try them out. Customers can better assess their particular needs and they have an opportunity to evaluate the exact system that they intend to buy.

A guide through the micro maze of products is handled by seasoned professional consultants that listen to the customer's questions and help in putting together the package that best suits their needs.

V-Com's strength is the ability to custom configure each system to the customer's specifications.

This is a real plus as the customer need not go over the budget right now as the system can be easily upgraded later.

There is one station set up just to take you for a little surf through the Internet. A great journey around the world via the net.

**The sight and sound room is simply unbelievable**

The Sight and Sound Room is simply unbelievable. If you really want to see the potential of today's computers you have got to see this! When I was there, the movie Top Gun was being displayed on 4 monitors of different sizes with a surround like sound blasting from the Pentium system driving the

display. This is a real help in showing the differences in monitors and speakers.

Obviously service is something that the company is proud of. Most places have the service department hidden away well out of view of the customer. Not at V-Com. The service area is in plain view and comfortable seating is available for the customer. (A cup of coffee is usually at hand as well)

**Solid consulting**

But when you get right down to it, it's a great place because there is someone there to really take the time, sit down and provide solid consulting on the needs of the customer.

Definitely, a must place to go when venturing out into the wild, wild world of computer buying.

**V-COM**  
Product  
of  
The  
Month

## THE NEW SATELLITE PRO™ WITH MODULAR CD-ROM.

The new Satellite Pro™ offers faster access to your multimedia applications with a Quad-Speed CD-ROM.

Now you can retrieve masses of information from large databases and enjoy the hottest educational and entertainment software.

A huge 10.4" diagonal color display and 24-bit true color support deliver brilliant graphics and stunningly realistic images that will leave you in awe. Crisp, clear stereo sound capabilities and smooth video playback will wake up any presentation. The Satellite Pro™ is portable multimedia computing at its highest level. So get going.



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# The ultimate mobile power machine...

## OpenNote • 575

- Intel 75MHz Pentium processor
- LCD dual scan colour screen
- Simultaneous LCD & CRT display
- 8MB RAM exp. to 40MB on board
- 340MB hard drive (810MB or 1.3GB option)
- 3.5" high density floppy drive
- 1MB local bus video
- PCMCIA type II and III slots
- built-in track stick pointing device
- built-in 16-bit sound card
- 14.4 PCMCIA fax modem
- Adaptec AIC-6360 fast SCSI controller
- Serial & parallel ports, docking bay port
- external keyboard and monitor ports
- rechargeable NIMH battery, AC adapter
- Speaker & microphone jacks
- carrying bag, car cigarette cable
- Windows 95 pre-loaded

# \$2,999

Only \$115 per month\*

It's no surprise that Canada's leader in value priced desktop computers is introducing the country's first affordable colour notebook with a Pentium processor. What's surprising is the awesome power and functionality that's packed into the new IPC OpenNote!

Powered by a 75 or 100MHz Pentium processor, the OpenNote has



all the techie features you're looking for -- PCMCIA slots, a built in 16-bit audio system, local bus video -- plus room for 40 megs of RAM.

More importantly, the OpenNote is a comfortable fit anywhere you take it. The rechargeable battery with an AC adaptor, plus the built-in palm rests and three button track stick will keep you happily notebooking a whole lot longer.

And the OpenNote has ports and connectors to plug in everywhere. Add a keyboard or a monitor, or plug in up to seven SCSI devices -- the OpenNote is an incredibly versatile computer!

So check out this ultimate mobile power machine at your local authorized IPC dealer, or dial 1.800.567.7413 for more info.



Take the power of an all new IPC OpenNote with you - everywhere!

**Building quality PCs in Canada for over 10 years!**

IPC Personal Computers are built in Canada by: 3D Microcomputers, 150 Bullock Drive, Markham, Ontario L3P 1W3 Fax: 905.472.6633

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System not necessarily as shown. Regional price variances may apply. Prices and configuration subject to change without notice. \*O.A.C. based on 36 month term, first and last payments in advance with a 5% buyback option

**NOW SHIPPING**  
**Windows 95**  
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Nelson	Nicolson Computer Supply	604.354.4666
North Delta	Micropro Compu-Electronics	604.591.8496
Port Hardy	Joyful Sound	604.949.7771
Revelstoke	The Computer Room	604.837.5888
Saltspring Island	HNW Design Computers	604.537.1101
Surrey	Express Computer Services	604.535.6508
Victoria	Data Image Technology	604.388.9991
Williams Lake	Information Management Service	604.392.4675



a list price for the 8.8-gigabyte drive of US\$1,995.

- The M295X series, which also begins shipping in the fourth quarter, comes in 2.2- and 4.4-GB capacities. List prices for the 2.2GB M2952 and 4.4GB M2954 are US\$850 and US\$1,050, respectively.
- The M293X series of SCSI-2 fast and wide

drives in 2.2GB and 4.4GB capacities are shipping in volume now and have list prices of US\$795 and US\$995, respectively.

- The M160X series, with SCSI-2 or ATA-2 drives for departmental server or desktop computer use, is now shipping in a range of capacities from 540MB to 1.08GB and features a rotational speed of 5,400 rpm. The

M160X 1GB, SCSI-2 drive has a list price of \$335 and the M160X 1GB, ATA-2 drive, a list price of US\$245.

- Fujitsu M161X ATA-2 drives, designed for mid-range performance desktop computer applications, have list prices for the 1GB series drive of US\$235.

Dow Jones says Fujitsu also unveiled a new 2.5-inch M271X ATA-2 series with one of the lowest profiles (12.5mm) available for portable computers. List price for the 1GB model is \$495. Drives also will be available in 540MB and 810MB capacities, DJ says.

### Digital Camcorder Price Set

Matsushita Consumer Electronics Co. has set the price of its first Digital Videocassette (DV Cassette) camcorder at \$4,199.95. The PV-DV1000 is due on store shelves later this month.

The company, located in Secaucus, New Jersey, reports that the camcorder offers a resolution of 500 lines, 50 percent better than a live television broadcast, plus CD-quality audio. The PV-DV1000 uses a cassette that's 1/12th the size of a standard VHS tape. Each \$13.99 60-minute tape can store up to 12.5 gigabytes of information — the capacity of 8,700 floppy disks.

Matsushita notes that the format has future potential for multimedia applications, giving users the ability to manipulate recordings on a PC or transmit them over telephone lines.

### World Trade Organization on Web

Add the World Trade Organization to the growing list of international associations coming to the Internet's World Wide Web.

The site (located at Web address <http://www.unicc.org/wto>) will be progressively updated and expanded, and provide online visitors with a description of the organization's activities, the results of the Uruguay Round, trade statistics, and trade reports.

### CD-ROM Sales Soon to Top Floppies

Market researcher IDC/LINK is forecasting that CD-ROM software sales will pass floppy disk revenue sometime in 1996.

The company, based in New York, reports that CD-ROM revenues were \$1 billion in 1994 and are expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 43 percent by the year 2000. By contrast, floppy disk revenues were \$3.6 billion in 1994 and are expected to decline \$2.7 billion within the next five years.

IDC/LINK says the CD-ROM field is being driven by expanding home PCs market. The researcher notes that other factors spurring CD-ROM sales include a demand for applications that combine audio, video, and text; the influence of children on multimedia PC purchases; a diffusion in retail channels for multimedia hardware, making PCs available in more non-computer retail outlets; and declining price points relative to incremental increases in performance.

### Wireless Market Growing 16 Percent

An industry tracker says annual revenues from wireless telecommunications could reach \$82.7 billion by the year 2006, compared with the current level of \$21.3 billion.

According to United Press International, in a report from Carmel, California, Paul Kagan Associates is predicting the number of subscribers will grow to 142.8 million from 34.8 million during that period, representing an annual growth rate of 16 percent.



## BYTE & SOUND

Computer - Multimedia - Karaoke - Cellular

# Canon

# MONEY-SAVING PROMOS

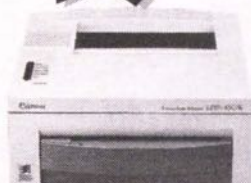
### Laser Printer

#### Canon LBP-430W Laser Printer

4 pages per minute  
Microsoft-at-work Printing System  
True WYSIWYG at Faster Speed  
Industry First 3 year Warranty

**\$569**

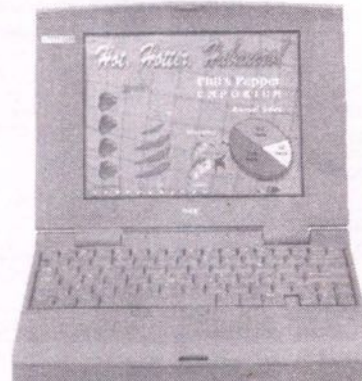
Received  
2 Free toner  
Save \$176



#### Canon LBP-460 Laser Printer

4 pages per minute  
600DPI Canon's Automatic Image Refinement Technology  
Microsoft Windows Printing Systems  
Industry First 2 year Warranty

**\$529**



## NEC

### 2000D Color Notebook

486DX4-75  
8MB Ram  
340MB Hard Drive

**\$2700**

### Versa 486/33 Color Notebook

**\$1700**

### Bubble Jet Printers

#### Canon BJ-30 Portable Bubble Jet



720 x 360 dpi 3.5 ppm  
30 sheet automatic feeder

**\$315**

#### Canon BJC-4000 Color Bubble Jet

5 pages per minute  
20 True Type Fonts  
100 sheet automatic feeder



**\$429**

#### Canon BJC-70 Portable Color Bubble Jet

720 x 360 dpi  
4 ppm in monochrome  
360 dpi in brilliant color  
30 sheet automatic feeder



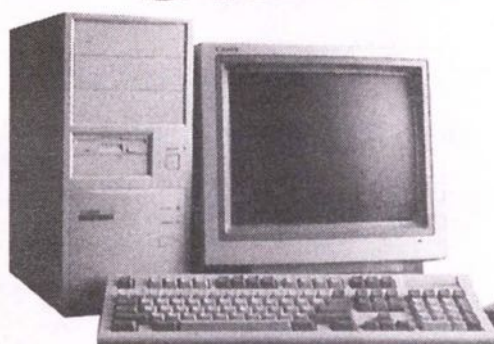
**\$479**

### Canon Innova Media System

#### Pentium 60mhz Processor

- \* Mini-Tower Case
- \* 8MB Ram
- \* 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- \* 540MB IDE Hard Drive
- \* 1MB Video Card
- \* Sony dual speed internal IDE CD-ROM Drive
- \* 16 Bit Sound Card
- \* 14.4bps Internal Fax & Modem
- \* Canon serial mouse and mouse pad
- \* Deluxe Speakers
- \* Canon 101 Enhanced Keyboard
- \* MS DOS 6.22 & Windows 3.11
- \* Selection of CD-ROM titles
- \* Pre-loaded software
- \* 14" LR. NI. Color Monitor
- \* 3 Years Warranty (2 year depot, 1 year on-site)

**\$2,199.00**



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#### 486DX2-66MHz Processor

- \* Mini-Tower Case
- \* 8MB Ram
- \* 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- \* 420MB IDE Hard Drive
- \* 1MB Video Card
- \* Sony dual speed internal IDE CD-ROM Drive
- \* 16 Bit Sound Card
- \* 14.4bps Internal Fax & Modem
- \* Canon serial mouse and mouse pad
- \* Deluxe Speakers
- \* Canon 101 Enhanced Keyboard
- \* MS DOS 6.22 & Windows 3.11
- \* Selection of CD-ROM titles
- \* Pre-loaded software
- \* 14" LR. NI. Color Monitor
- \* 3 Years Warranty (2 year depot, 1 year on-site)

**\$1,799.00**

Prices are subject to change without notice. VISA service charge is 2.8%.

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**WINPACK 95**

Allows you to

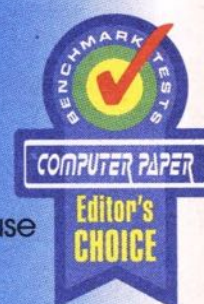
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No doubt about it, Windows® 95 –Microsoft's newest 32-bit operating system, will change the way computers are used! To maximize the advanced features of its new 32-bit applications, Windows® 95 will demand the ultimate from your hardware. COMTEX has met the challenge with their **Winpack95-55CMS**.

The winner of the  
COMPUTER PAPER  
Editor's Choice for  
Pentium Powerhouse  
(August 1995)

has added



**WINNER**  
August 1995

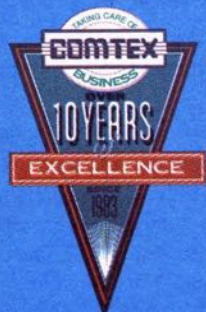
Microsoft's  
Windows® 95 and  
a host of multi-  
media goodies to  
produce the  
ultimate in Pentium  
performance!

With Intel's 133 MHz  
Pentium CPU  
added to our  
U.S. made



SUPER TRITON  
PCI mother-  
board with  
pipeline

burst synchronous cache, it blows the doors off the competition. Adding a multimedia PCI video card with 2 MB VRAM and a speedy 1.6 GB Mode 4E-IDE hard drive gives you speed to burn. We finish the system off with a Quad speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit sound card and a 14,400 bps voice/ fax/ data modem to make sure that the COMTEX **Winpack95-55CMS** leads the charge in the Windows® 95 hardware sweepstakes.



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Cellular phones will dominate the industry in the next few years, the firm reports, with two new technologies — enhanced mobile radio and personal communications services, or PCS — starting to fuel growth during the next century.

Kagan Associates predicts:

- ♦ Cellular customers will rise from 34.7 million to 74.5 million in the year 2000, then add another 17.9 million over the following six years.

♦ PCS will have reached 8 million by the turn of the century and hit 37.5 million by the year 2006, and enhanced radio services will go from 3.1 million in 2000 to 12 million six years later.

UPI says the study shows PCS is expected to target consumers with a low-cost "basic" service slightly undercutting cellular's packages, with the average PCS bill running at \$36 by 2006, compared with \$40 for cellular and enhanced radio at \$55.

### Gates Still Richest Businessman

For the second straight year, Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates is the world's richest businessman, according to the annual survey by Forbes Magazines.

Business writer Eric R. Quinones of the Associated Press comments that Gates, "whose accomplishments this year included finally introducing Windows 95 and turning the Stones into

software pitchmen," now has a net worth of about \$14.8 billion, up 70 percent from last year.

The 39-year-old Gates called the Forbes list "silly" last year when he edged investor Warren Buffett for No. 1 at \$9.35 billion. This year, his 20-year-old Microsoft is supplying the software for 80 percent of the world's PCs and dominated news pages and advertising space with the Windows 95 software launched Aug. 24.

Buffett again was in the No. 2 slot, this year at roughly \$11.8 billion. Quinones notes Buffett's bottom line was boosted by about \$400 million after the Walt Disney Co. offered \$19 billion for Capital Cities/ABC Inc., one of his longtime holdings.

Notes AP, "Gates and Buffett also are the wealthiest commoners in the world, Forbes said. The only foreigners who aren't royalty and approach their riches are Swedish packaging magnate Hans Rausing and Japanese railroad and hotel tycoon Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, both worth about \$9 billion."

Rounding out Forbes' top five are:

- ♦ John Kluge, 81, of Charlottesville, Virginia, chairman of Metromedia Co. He is worth about \$6.7 billion and also was No. 3 last year, having interests in restaurants, entertainment, broadcasting, and medical technology.

- ♦ Paul Allen, 42, co-founder of Microsoft and owner of the Portland Trail Blazers basketball team. The value of Allen's Microsoft shares helped him jump from No. 16 to No. 4 with a worth of about \$6.1 billion.

- ♦ Sumner Redstone, 72, of Newton Centre, Massachusetts, chairman of Viacom Inc. He jumped 12 spots to No. 5 with a worth of about \$4.8 billion, in part by paring the entertainment empire.

Quinones comments that the Forbes list has increasingly become the domain of technology, retailing, finance, and entertainment moguls and less concentrated on heavy manufacturing and energy. For instance, new entrants include James Clark (No. 252, \$485 million), whose Netscape Communications Corp. software concern was the hottest initial public stock offering this year despite never having turned a profit.

### Asia-Pacific PC Market to Boom

Experts expect a 24.3 percent year-on-year growth in the Asia-Pacific PC market this year, with sales reaching 6.66 million units.

Reporting from Singapore, the French Agence France-Press International News Service quotes a report by researchers at Dataquest as saying China, Thailand, and Malaysia are leading the boom, with China breaking the one-million-unit level for the first time.

The wire service says the local Business Times newspaper is reporting that Dataquest projects that the Chinese PC market is "poised" to expand by more than 60 percent, while the growth rate in Thailand would top 40 percent and Malaysia and Singapore 30 percent.

Analyst Janardhan Menon told the paper, "Essentially there is more computerization going on. Also, major infrastructures development projects in countries such as China and Malaysia can easily add a couple of percent to the overall growth rates."

Menon discounted what AFP termed "a popular perception" that PC prices were falling, saying, "Our data shows that the average PC buyer in Asia-Pacific is paying an increasing price for his PC."

AFP says the average PC in the region is expected to cost \$2,007 this year, up from \$1,962 last year, and will reach \$2,107 next year.

Menon says the PC market could enjoy steady growth of 20 percent to 30 percent in countries such as Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, depending on the rate of national development. However, he says, China and India will see the fastest growth rates, with China becoming a five-million PC market and India a 2.4-million PC market by 1999.

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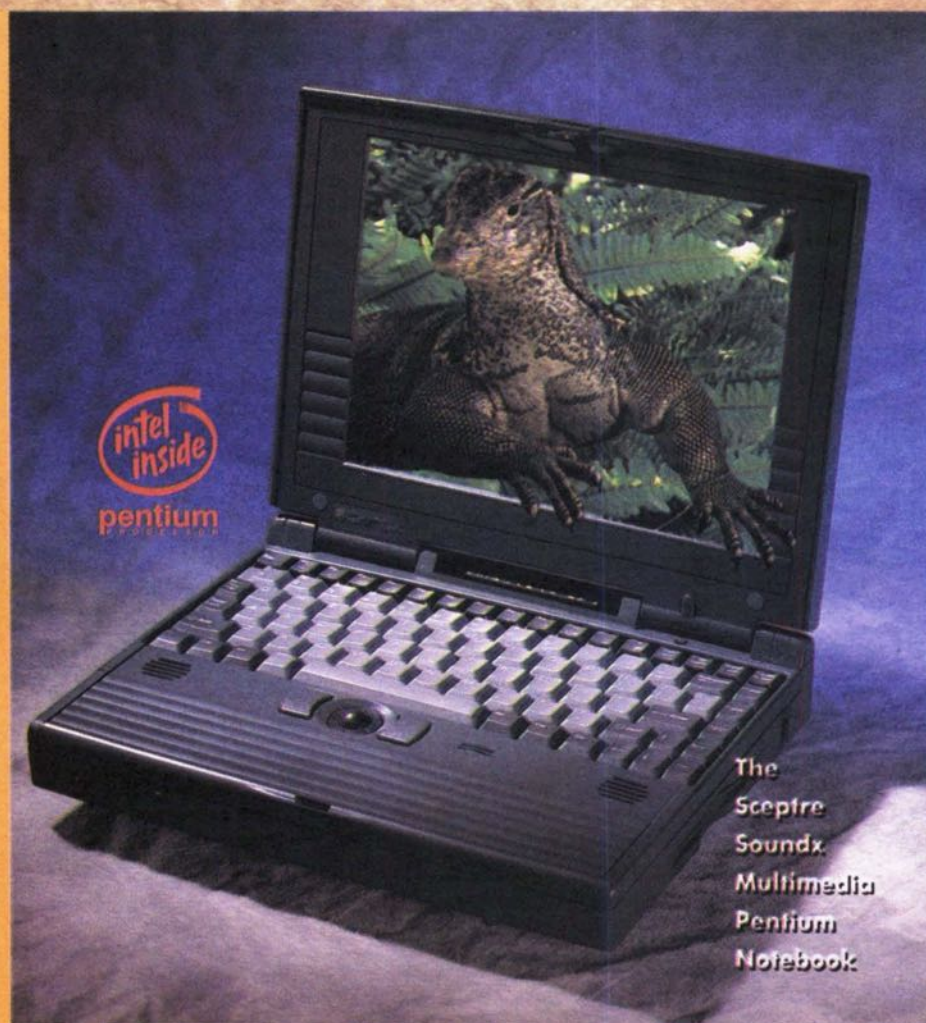
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## Internet-Cable Link in the Works

Development of Internet services to the home using cable-TV systems is the goal of a new partnership between Netscape Communications Corp. and a start-up company backed by Tele-Communications Inc. Financial terms weren't disclosed.

The startup, called simply Home, told the Wall Street Journal it will use Netscape's Internet software as part of a proposed nationwide service.

Backed by TCI and the San Francisco venture firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, the firm will use a modified version of Netscape's browser. Netscape President/CEO James Barksdale will join Home's board as part of the alliance.

## Gates Unit Buys Bettmann Archive

For undisclosed terms, the Bettmann Archive, one of the world's largest photo collections, has been purchased by Corbis Corp., a digital media company founded and owned by the Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates.

Corbis, which acquired Bettmann from Kraus Organization Ltd., plans to digitize and catalog the 16 million photos and license them for use in computer programs and online systems.

Gates launched Corbis in 1989 to acquire photographs, artwork and other published works for use in software and other digital outlets. He has operated Corbis chiefly as a photo agency, similar to Bettmann but with a computer-age twist. It buys photographs and sells them to others in digital form, delivered on diskette or online.

## Nixon CD-ROM Planned

Multimedia software publisher Graphix Zone Inc. says it is collaborating with three-time Academy Award winner Oliver Stone to produce an interactive CD-ROM based on the upcoming film, "Nixon."

Scheduled for release in March 1996, the CD-ROM will feature footage from the film, including scenes with Sir Anthony Hopkins as the late president and James Woods as

Chief-of-Staff H.R. Halderman.

According to Graphix Zone, which is based in Irvine, California, the Nixon CD-ROM "will provide both an adventurous look behind the scenes at the White House and a scholarly research vehicle to access a 'virtual Nixon library.'" Users will be able to explore never-before-seen White House rooms, including the "plumbers' office," which housed the top secret "black bag" burglary operation.

The disc will also feature historical documents from the Watergate era, as well as photos, memos, and video footage from Nixon's life and administration.

The Nixon CD-ROM will be a hybrid disc, playable on Window, Windows 95, and Macintosh platforms. The CD-ROM will also provide direct online links to a Nixon Internet home page.

## IMA Moves to Cut CD-ROM Returns

The Interactive Multimedia Association will launch an industry-wide campaign on Oct. 31 to help consumers better match CD-ROM software to their computers.

The service is designed to reduce retail returns, which run as high as 30 percent for some multimedia titles.

The IMA, a trade organization representing more than 380 interactive multimedia technology providers worldwide, says its CD Match program will be provided through its World Wide Web site and other channels. The software automatically runs a check of its host PC and provides a printout of the system's capabilities. Consumers can then take the printout to a local retail outlet, compare it to the IMA-recommended uniform label that will appear on CD-ROM packages, and determine if their computer will support a particular title's requirements.

## IBM Announces Layoffs

IBM Corp. is planning to cut about 1,100 employees from its U.S. operations, mostly in sales and support. Part of the consolidation includes merging nine sales support locations in the Northeast into a single site in Cranford, New Jersey.



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## Epson Opens Web Site

PC and peripherals maker Epson has opened a World Wide Web site.

Epson says the site offers users access to news of its products and services, upgraded drivers and software, and other services relating to its PCs, printers, scanners, and other products. The site features five sections: What's New, Epson Products, Epson Connects, Press Info and Epson Contacts.

The Epson Web site is located at <http://www.epson.com>.

## Sharp Claims LCD Breakthrough

Japan's Sharp Corp. says its new 28-inch thin-film transistor display is the industry's largest to-date.

Computergram International quotes Sharp officials as saying the makers see the panel being used in displays for meetings, notice boards, and educational equipment.

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### Microsoft OKs Net Distribution

Microsoft Corp. has decided to allow resellers to distribute some of its more popular titles over the Internet, a move some say could change how software is sold.

Beginning Oct. 16, several resellers, among them CyberSource Corp. of Menlo Park, California, will begin distributing 20 to 30 Microsoft programs over the Internet, including Microsoft Word, the Excel spreadsheet, and the Flight Simulator game.

### US Robotics Eyes Hayes

Modem maker US Robotics Corp. is considering a bid to buy rival Hayes Microcomputer Products Inc.

The firm has filed a petition with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Atlanta to modify the rules for bidding on bankrupt Hayes.

"US Robotics said it is interested in buying Hayes," Reuters reports, "but does not want to comply with a proposal that requires new buyout offers to be at least \$7 million more than Diamond Multimedia System Inc.'s bid of \$158 million."

### First Internet Bank Set to Debut

Security First Network Bank FSB reports that it will make banking history by opening the first full-service bank on the Internet.

The Atlanta-based institution says customers will be able to make deposits, pay bills and reconcile accounts 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The first transaction across

the public network will take place on Oct. 18 at a news conference Security First is scheduled to hold in New York.

The bank says computer experts have been unable to penetrate the software it will use to protect customers' financial information and deposits.

Security First says it has plans to provide additional financial services, allowing its online customers to view and manage all of their financial affairs.

Subject to regulatory approval, the new services will include credit card, stock brokerage, insurance and corporate cash management capabilities.

The bank's home page is located on the World Wide Web at <http://www.sfnb.com>.

### States Come to World Wide Web

U.S. governments in every state except New Jersey and Nevada have created home pages on the Internet's World Wide Web, providing information ranging from tourism to business to tips on deadbeat dads.

A study by the Public Affairs Research Institute of New Jersey Inc. says most states' home page includes a governor's message, tourist promotions, and electronic connections to state agencies and educational institutions.

Business writer Evan Ramstad of the Associated Press says government agencies have been attracted to the Internet by low expense and the relative ease of creating information there, the same selling points that have caused Web usage among businesses and individuals to explode in the last year.

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about \$90

Alan Zisman

Before parents were made to feel guilty if they didn't have a computer in the home for their kids, they were made to feel guilty if they didn't have an encyclopedia. Like a computer, the encyclopedia was often sold as a needed tool for raising a child who would be successful in school— even the price point was similar (adjusting for inflation).

(And of course, while both computers and encyclopedias are nice things to have, many students raised in homes with neither do perfectly well, thank you).

Combine computers and encyclopedias, and it would seem like you'd have the perfect object to make parents feel guilty... shouldn't you buy a multimedia, CD-ROM encyclopedia, today?

Encyclopedias and CD-ROMs make a natural partnership— CDs provide the storage needed for the large amount of text included in an encyclopedia, while providing some additional space for graphics. Computer database technology makes it easy to search the encyclopedia for information— both in traditional ways, such as article title and by indexed phrases, but also in news ways— by topic for example, or even to find all articles containing a particular word. It's easy to copy and paste from the encyclopedia right into a word processed document (but teachers will still know when you're plagiarizing!) And the recent advances in multimedia let publishers add flash unobtainable in traditional print versions— sounds, animations, and video.

And while the costs of printing a finely-bound, profusely illustrated, multi-volume print encyclopedia inevitably makes it an expensive purchase, CDs are cheap to manufacture, especially if the publisher already owns the text and graphics content of the print version.

At first, CD-encyclopedias cost \$300-500, as publishers tried to keep them from competing with their text versions. Recently, however, prices have taken a tumble... it is now possible to buy a reputable CD for under \$100, or in many cases, get one bundled with a CD-ROM upgrade kit, or with a multimedia computer.

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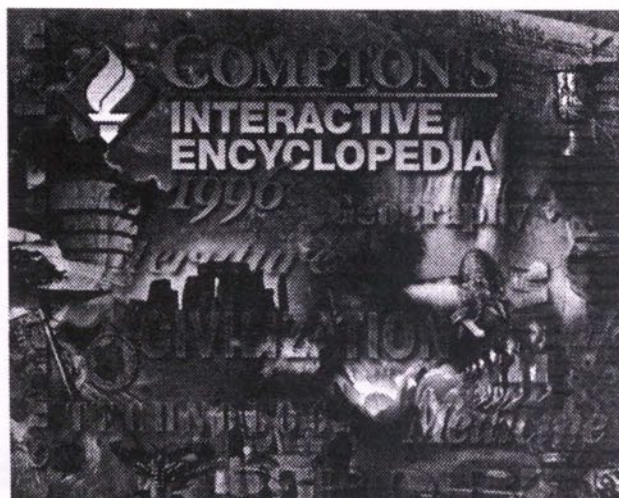
For the past few years, the big three names in the CD market have been Compton's and Grolier's (both traditional marketers of print encyclopedias) and Microsoft Encarta (based on the text of the Funk and Wagnalls). All have achieved quite respectable sales—with their ease of use and affordability knocking big holes in the traditional print encyclopedia sales. Recently, encyclopedia industry leaders Britannica and World Book have come out with CD-ROM versions, though they are currently pricing themselves out of the bulk of the market (Britannica's CD version costs over \$1000).

Compton's has a new version out—their 1996 edition for Mac and Windows Multimedia PC coming out seemingly on the same time-frame as the 1996 crop of cars. Besides updating the content, it continues to be attractive and easy to use. As well, it offers tie ins to CompuServe and America-On-Line, offering users of these services access to continually updated information.

Like its competitors, it packs a lot of information

onto a disk—the complete text of the print encyclopedia, with 35,000 articles, 8,000 pictures... 100 videos, animations, and presentations, and 15 hours of sampled and MIDI sounds. Dictionary, thesaurus, and atlas. Educational games.

Compton's adds a bonus—a second CD disk, with Now What Software's Small Blue Planet—a very attractive atlas, built on satellite photos of the earth. It's fun and easy to use, while running right from the CD—requiring no hard drive space whatsoever (a very nice feature). Compton's offers a choice: you have the option of choosing between better performance by using more of



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your hard drive, or conserving disk real estate, while getting slower performance, taking 10k, 7 megs, or 23 megs. (I chose the medium performance option, but on my 486-66, with an older double-speed CD-ROM, it was still quite usable).

It starts up with an attractive opening screen complete with background music, but there seems to be no way to jump quickly to the main screen; one of my few irritations with an otherwise well-designed product. The basic interface gives you a toolbar down the side, with a main screen split into three parts—top left, a multi-media window, for graphics, charts, tables, or videos. Below that, there's a search window—allowing for searches of all content, or just among articles, pictures, movies, sounds, or tables. The right-hand half of the screen shows the actual text, along with icons for other media objects. Unlike some other encyclopedias, you can scroll quickly through the text, because it doesn't stop to show the pictures (etc.) unless you actually click on them. Each of these windows can be enlarged, and the user can print an article or graphic, or copy them to the clipboard. You can also set bookmarks, enabling you to quickly find that spot again.

Users of print encyclopedias will be used to searching for information by article title, and maybe by using an index. Compton's adds new ways to find information—articles often include hypertext links to other, related articles. Articles can point to a spot on one of two timelines—one for world history, another just for the US, and the timeline is linked back to articles. Teachers often encourage students to make idea-webs or bubble-charts, to see what how ideas are linked—Compton's uses a similar idea in its InfoPilot view. A Topic Tree can take you from a general topic, to increasingly specific sub-topics, again showing how knowledge is related. Double-clicking on an item on an atlas map takes you directly to the article describing that place.

Another nice feature is the Editing Room—allowing a user to build a multimedia presentation combining graphics, sounds, and video from the encyclopedia with other computer-based sources. It's easy to build a script adding encyclopedia bookmarks, links to other sources, and user generated title screens. With a sound card and microphone, you can even record your own narration.

A new fun feature is Explore... this kid-oriented add-in takes you your

choice of half a dozen 'rooms'—Grandma's Attic, a Music Store, Newsroom, nature adventure, Patterns Playroom, or space ship. In each case, there's lots to explore and learn.

The encyclopedia also offers hooks to on-line services—you can connect directly from the encyclopedia to connect into Compton's Living Encyclopedia for continually updated information, games, and other frills. Software and a trial offer for America Online are on the CD, but it can also be configured to use with other on-line services.

The articles in Compton's are not as detailed as their equivalents in Encarta or Grolier's—my daughter has a grade 9 science project on the planet Venus. When she printed out the article on Venus (planet) in Encarta, she got four pages plus pictures. Looking up Venus in Compton's, she was told to check Solar System (I don't know why it couldn't have done the cross-referencing automatically). That article included briefer articles than Encarta's on each planet—about two pages when she printed it out. Not only is the information less detailed, the vocabulary is also simpler.

This is not necessarily a bad thing... if you have a child in the older elementary years or junior high, you're far better off with something like this, that can be read and understood than a product with a higher intellectual level that's more likely to stay on the shelf. And with the low price of these products, if your child outgrows it, you can afford to replace it.

Compton's suggests (PC version), that users have a 486SX25 or better, with at least 4 megs of ram. The 1996 edition runs under either Windows 3.1 or Windows 95, supporting Win95's CD-Autoplay capability—letting it start up as soon as it's placed in the CD player.

I'd highly recommend it for parents and students, grades 6-9. □

About the author: Alan Zisman is a teacher and an associate editor of Computer Player; he can be reached at e-mail at azisman@wimsey.com.

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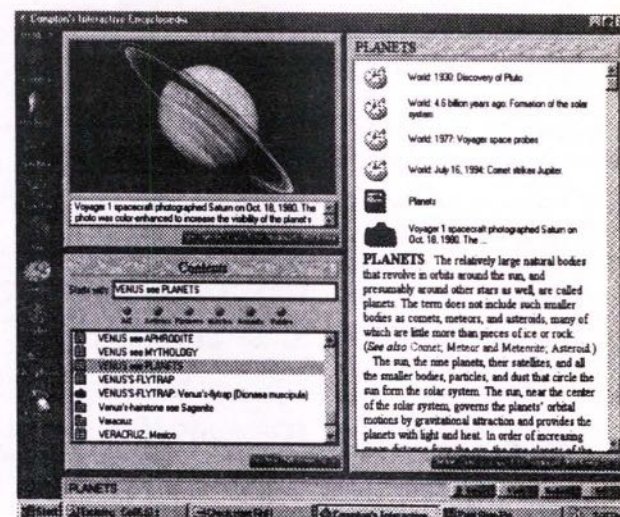


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## Desktop Publishing Tips: Corel PHOTO-PAINT 5.0

This month we'll look at some basic functions in PHOTO-PAINT: using a paint brush and choosing paint colours.

Start Corel PHOTO-PAINT and open a new image window.

### Choosing a colour

Click **View, Color Roll-Up**. In the roll-up, click the Color Model drop-down list. Select the CMY Color Model.

The Color Table displays a palette of CMY colours. The Paint Color box shows the current brush or pen colour. The Paper Color box shows the background colour when you start a new image window or when you use the eraser.

Click in the Paint Color box to select it. Click in the Color Table to select a colour.

You can click in one of the faces of the Visual Selector cube to select a CMY mixture. The triangles at the end of the axes represent 100% Cyan, 100% Magenta and 100% Yellow. You can also drag the markers on the axes, or enter an amount from 0 to 255 in the C, M, Y boxes at the top of the roll-up.

To mix a colour, click the brush button and click a colour in the Color Table. Drag the pointer in the Paint Area. Click another colour and drag it in the Paint Area to mix the colours. Repeat with other colours. When you have a colour you want, click the Eyedropper and click on the colour in the Paint Area to select it.

### Selecting a paint brush

Click the Paint Brush Tool in the Toolbox. The pointer size indicates the thickness of the brush.

Click **View, Tool Settings Roll-Up**. In the roll-up, click the rounded brush to select it.

Enter a **Size** of 25 for the brush—it will show in the preview box beside the size. Enter 0 for **Flatten**. Enter a **Transparency** value of 0. The value varies between a maximum of 100

(transparent) and minimum of 0 (opaque).

The **Density** setting changes the thickness of the paint, between dense (100) and diffuse (0). You can get the same effect as a high setting by overlapping your brush strokes. Enter 100.

A high **Fade Out** value will make your brush "run out of paint" earlier. 0 represents a loaded brush, while at 100, the paint runs out quickly. Enter 0.

When **Spacing** is 1 the brush stroke is solid. A large number will produce a dotted line. At 0 the brush will skip if you drag it quickly. Enter 1.

Click the **Edge** drop-down list and select **Hard**. This will give your brush stroke a defined edge. A **Soft** brush has a solid centre and diffuse edge. Hold the mouse button and drag to paint.

In the Tool Settings roll-up, click the Brush Selection button. Scroll through the brush shapes and click the musical note. Set **Fade Out** to 90 and **Spacing** to 25. Choose a colour and drag the pointer to paint with this brush.

### Erasing

To undo the last brush stroke, double-click the Local Undo Tool in the Toolbox. To erase parts of the last brush stroke, click the Local Undo Tool to select it. Then drag it over the brush stroke.

Click the Eraser Tool. Drag it over the image. Colours will be replaced by the currently selected Paper Color in the Color roll-up, and using the shape of the last selected Paint Brush.

**About the author:** *Swee-Sim Tan* is a freelance graphic artist and desktop publisher who provides training and consultation in CorelDRAW, Corel PHOTO-PAINT, Corel VENTURA, Harvard Graphics, PageMaker, and WordPerfect. If you are using CorelDRAW, Corel PHOTO-PAINT, CorelTRACE, or Corel VENTURA, call for information about purchasing How-To booklets and a collection of desktop publishing tips. Telephone: 254-5940.

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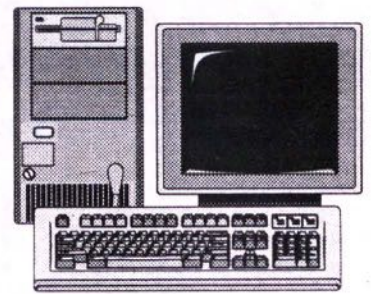


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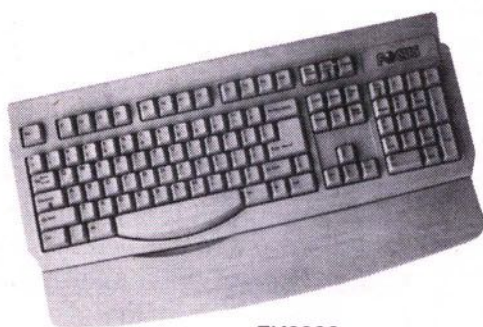


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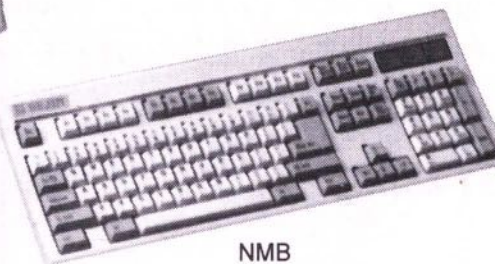
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## Reader Rabbit Just Keeps on Hopping

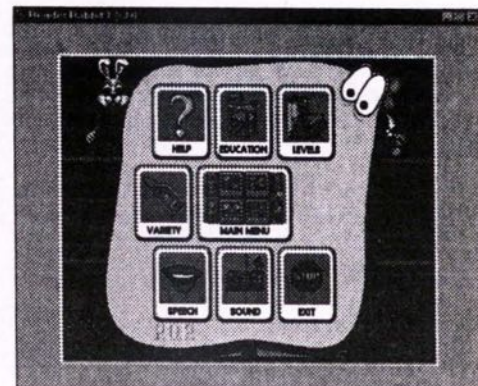
### - Three new CD-ROM disks

David Anderson

The Learning Company has issued a deluxe CD-ROM version of its famous Reader Rabbit series, comprised of three disks, levels one, two and three. These levels are designed for pre-readers, early readers, and children who can manage comprehension activities. There is no denying the success of these titles in school computer programs, where young children are often given time on the Macintosh or the PC to practice letter sounds, alphabet games, visual discrimination, and simple spelling games, often using the Reader Rabbit series. Reader Rabbit has given birth to Math Rabbit, and there will be more rabbits, no doubt. Let's take a look at the three new CD-ROM's, and see if The Learning Company has taken advantage of the potential of the CD-ROM format.

Reader Rabbit One presents four activities for the pre-reader who can be enticed into practicing letter recognition, and easy spelling words. I

say enticed, because the actual game play tends to be rather routine and repetitive, with not much in the way of reward for trying hard. An old CGA game called Phonics, which gives the player ten shots at a hovering target for every fifteen correct answers, gets far more practice out of a child than Reader Rabbit can. For all the flashy colour and corny laugh tracks on these CD-ROM's, there is nothing even close to that kind of arcade payoff. There is a very good concentration game, however, which is perfect for children just getting used to the mouse, or arrow keys, and the enter key. Reader Rabbit One asks for a lot of patience from the player, and gives out only a little song or a



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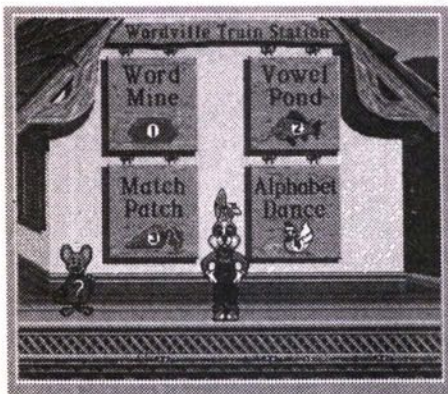
wiggle from the animated creature in each game. Is this enough to satisfy today's five, six, or seven-year-old? My five-year old put it this way: "Dad, can I stop now?"

Reader Rabbit Two contains an advanced alphabet game, another concentration game involving word meanings, and a compound word game. While the skills being exercised here are valid and purposeful, the activities are not very interesting, and a little too routine, again. The alphabet game, in particular, is rather abstract and not very intuitive (meaning not immediately clear) and tends to frustrate rather than engage. The work-around would be to prepare the child ahead of time, with lots of practice sorting pictures and words, so that the trick of the computer game is less distracting. Again, lots of effort required here, and not much payoff. What is missing is the genius of the Learning Company's Super Solver series, which mix all of these reading skills in with intriguing game situations, so that the practice goes down unnoticed.

Reader Rabbit Three presents the player with the opportunity to identify and sort information into the categories of who, what, when, where, and how. Activities draw attention to the subjects and verbs in a sentence. The CD-ROM makes good use of digital speech to read sentences out loud. The entire program takes on the look and feel of a newsroom in a local newspaper. When all of the main menu games are completed, the child is then offered the chance to visit the print shop, to make up her own stories using suggested phrases, or words that are typed into the story directly, and then printed out. It is the first time a user can put her own ideas onto the screen. Everything else has been pre-packaged, and multiple-choice.

A very unexpected aspect of Reader Rabbit Three was the time needed to get from the opening screen to the main menu, and then to any of the games chosen from the main menu. On my 486 DX33, with 8 megabytes of ram, it took 3 minutes and 51 seconds from the start of the game to get to the first reading activity. I rebooted, I defragged, I scandisked. Same thing. How many non-Pentium users are going to sit for four minutes to play a reading game?

Now, to be fair, the Learning Company has produced some absolute gems of magnetic educational programs. Children's Writing and Publishing Center, Challenge of the Ancient Empires, and Operation Neptune, are just a few. But these Reader Rabbit programs are a puzzle to me. When compared with the novel use of the CD-ROM format



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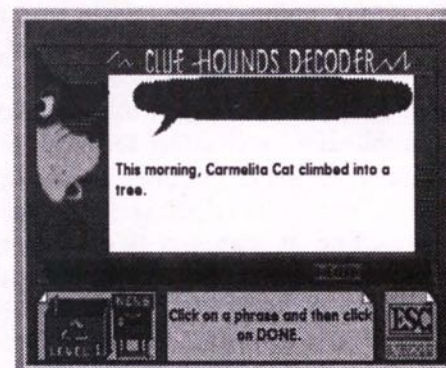
by Broderbund in their Active Minds series, for example, one has to wonder at the mundane sounds, the poor drawing, the low-tech animations, and the unbelievably slow running speeds in the Reader Rabbit CD-ROMs. And I keep wondering about the nature of the activities themselves. In games from other companies like Math Blaster, Number Munchers, Word Munchers, and Gizmos and Gadgets, there are a number of built-in hooks that drive children to pursue specific goals, giving them real school work to do along the way. Reader Rabbit games seem to lack that special something that dulls the pain of repetitive word matching, and alphabetization, noble endeavors though they may be.

Oh yes, one more thing. Be prepared for a burst of high-pressure Learning Company marketing, at the start of every game. Keep your finger on the escape key. But, hey, why complain? Besides, who can argue with success? I think that crafty Reader Rabbit is laughing all the way. □

For more information,

**The Learning Company**  
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About the author: *David Anderson is Vancouver elementary teacher, parent of two children. He can be reached by email: [computer\\_player@mindlink.bc.ca](mailto:computer_player@mindlink.bc.ca)*



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Alan Zisman

**Y**ou've got to feel a little sorry for Artisoft... for years, their Lantastic Network Operating System, now in version 6.0, has been the best-selling example of a small network—a network for small businesses, schools, even homes... anyone with from two to two dozen or so machines to tie together, but not needing the expense and complication of a big, server-based network like Novell Netware.

Tying together over 2.7 million machines last year, Lantastic has successfully survived competition from networking giant Novell, who clearly aimed their Lite version at the small networks that have been Lantastic's strength.

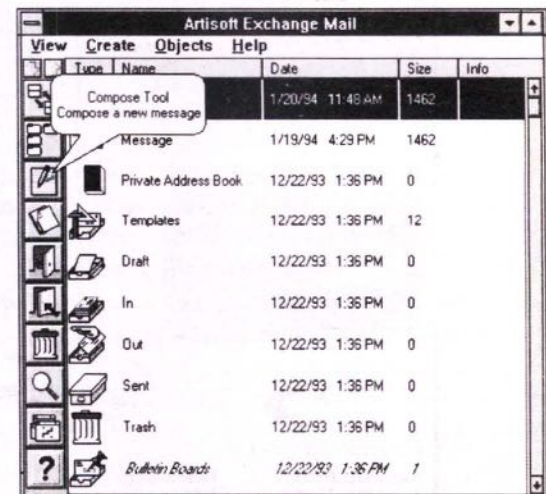
Lantastic version 6.0 is a bigger program than the previous version, which came on a single 3 1/2" diskette. It adds Windows (3.1) utilities and installation, accounting for much of the added bulk. Installing Lantastic, you can choose to set up each machine as either a Server or a Workstation—Servers share their drives, and optionally resources such as printers, across the network... workstations can use resources on servers, but do not share their own resources; a simple network could set each machine as a server, but setting up a

machine that way requires a larger DOS TSR file than setting it up as a workstation. In either case, the ram required is relatively small, compared to other networks.

Because you can set each machine up to share files and other resources with the network, Lantastic is an example of a peer-to-peer network. This is in contrast to the big networks, such as Netware, that have a dedicated file server, which provides services to a large number of passive clients.

Lantastic offers file sharing, and easy sharing of printing and CD-ROMs across the network, an obvious benefit for many small offices, and even some homes with multiple computers. In addition, it provides optional e-mail across the network, and scheduling. In a business environment, Lantastic mini-networks can be connected to Netware and Windows-based servers, at a cost of additional conventional ram. In addition, there are strong security features... you can set up multiple levels of access, providing users different abilities to write, create, or modify files in different directories on the server's drives.

As well, it includes its share of frills... users with sound cards, for example, can record voice messages, and send them across the network.



Built-in Artisoft Exchange links you to e-mail, fax and pager communication

While Lantastic is DOS-based, it works well under Windows 3.1, including a full collection of Windows utilities, both for controlling the network, and for e-mail, scheduling and other functions.

Because Lantastic is aimed at small networks, primarily in smaller businesses, it has to be usable by companies that lack a trained and dedicated Network Manager, as you'll often find baby-sitting the big corporate networks. And it pretty much succeeds. If you have no networking background, you really should look through the documentation before diving in and installing the software, but everything is pretty well-explained; there's "A Basic Guide to Everyday Networking", as well as a bigger

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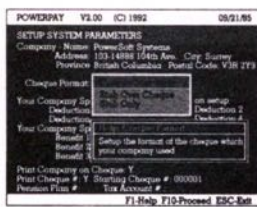
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reference manual. Artisoft's phone support is good— though you have to pay for the long distance call to Arizona.

Everything I've mentioned sounds good... so why should we be feeling sorry for Artisoft?

The big problem isn't with Lantastic— it works as advertised, and fills a useful market niche. In many ways, however, this niche is disappearing before their eyes. Starting with Windows for Workgroups, basic peer-to-peer networking has been included in many users' operating environment.

If you bought Windows for Workgroups for the speed increase in 32-bit File Access, you have peer-to-peer networking at the same time. And

if you upgrade either that version of standard Windows 3.1 to Windows 95, you get peer-to-peer networking whether you need it or not.

Lantastic provides superior security, more options for protecting server files and directories, and fancier print sharing options than either Windows for Workgroups, or Windows 95. But that distinction may not mean much to many potential customers.... Before, if you wanted a simple network, you had to buy a dedicated network program— and in most cases, that meant Lantastic. But now, the basic networking provided right in the operating system package may prove enough for many users.

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Artisoft has promised a Windows 95 version in a few months— it's currently being beta tested. And they have promised that it will include an installable file system— perhaps answering one complaint many power users have had about Win95... it's continued reliance on the antiquated DOS FAT file system. Certainly, this will provide more features than Windows 95's core networking. We'll have to see whether that's enough to allow Artisoft to maintain Lantastic's position as the most commercially suc-

cessful small networking software.

If you're sticking to DOS or Windows 3.1 for the foreseeable future, and you want to share computer resources around the office or small workgroup, the purchase of a few ethernet cards and copies of Lantastic may be a good solution... but if you're planning an upgrade to Windows 95, you may find it meets your needs. □

**About the author:** Alan Zisman can be reached by e-mail: alan\_zisman@computer-player.com



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## Frequently Asked Questions:

# Windows 95 Basic

Information from Microsoft Corp.

### What happens if the power fails or if my computer restarts during Setup?

Windows 95 Setup has a feature called Safe Recovery. Depending on where Setup was interrupted, you may be able to simply turn your computer off and back on, run Setup again, and choose Safe Recovery when you are prompted.

### What do I do if Setup stops responding (hangs) while it is detecting the hardware in my computer?

If Setup hangs while it is detecting the hardware in your computer, turn your computer off and back on, run Setup again, and choose Safe Recovery when you are prompted.

### What is Setup doing when I see the "Getting ready to run Windows 95 for the first time" screen?

After Setup restarts your computer, it must complete the installation process. Setup accomplishes the following tasks while the "Getting ready to run Windows 95 for the first time" screen is displayed:

- Setup processes the Wininit.ini file and combines all the virtual device drivers listed in

the [CombineVxDs] section of the file into one file called Vmm32.vxd. Combining these drivers provides faster startup times.

- Setup renames all the files that were in use during the first portion of Setup. For example, Setup renames the User32.tmp file to User32.exe and renames the Command.new file to Command.com.

- Setup makes a backup copy of the registry for troubleshooting purposes.

After these tasks are accomplished, Setup starts the Windows 95 graphical user interface (GUI) and completes the installation process by converting program groups, setting up the Help system, and setting your location and time zone.

If I run Setup over an existing Windows 95 installation, I receive the following two options:

- Restore Windows files that are changed
- Copy all Windows files again

### How do I make backup copies of my original Windows 95 disks before I install Windows 95?

Windows 95 disks are Distribution Media Format (DMF) disks and are not compatible with the MS-DOS COPY and DISKCOPY commands. You cannot create backup copies of the Windows 95 disks.

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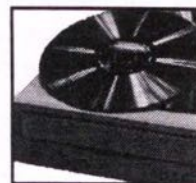


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### How do I install a feature of Windows 95 that I did not install originally?

If you want to add or remove a Windows 95 component, use the Add/Remove Programs tool in Control Panel. On the Windows Setup tab, click the items you want to add or remove.

### Setup seems to take just as long no matter which option I choose. Why?

Both of these options verify the validity of Windows 95 files. Verifying the Windows 95 files takes as long as an original installation because Setup must open each cabinet file to verify the Windows 95 files. Setup uses the Setuplog.txt file to determine which files to check and marks each good file with an "S." This mode also rebuilds the Vmm32.vxd file and recopies any file with a lost long filename.

### Why does Setup tell me I am running virus-protection software when I cannot find any on my computer?

Some computers have built-in virus protection. If virus protection is enabled in your computer's CMOS settings, Setup cannot continue. Please contact your hardware vendor for information about temporarily disabling this feature.

### Is there a way to remove Windows 95?

Yes. To do so, you must choose to save your computer's system files on the hard disk during Setup. You cannot store the "uninstall" file on a network drive or floppy disk. To remove Windows 95, use these three steps:

1. Click the Start button, point to Settings, and then click Control Panel.
2. Double-click the Add/Remove Programs icon.
3. On the Install/Uninstall tab, click Windows 95, and then click Remove.

You can also remove Windows 95 by starting your computer with the Windows 95 Startup Disk and then typing "uninstall" (without the quotation marks) at the command prompt.

NOTE: You are not prompted to save the system files during Setup if any of the following conditions apply:

- You are installing Windows 95 in an empty directory.
- You are not running MS-DOS version 5.0 or later.
- You are reinstalling Windows 95 over itself.

### I am not having any problems with Windows 95. How do I delete the "uninstall" files created by Setup?

To delete the "uninstall" files and free disk space, use these three steps:

1. Click the Start button, point to Settings, and then click Control Panel.
2. Double-click the Add/Remove Programs icon.
3. On the Install/Uninstall tab, click Old Windows 3.x/MS-DOS System Files, and then click Remove.

Once you delete these files, you cannot use the Uninstall tool to remove Windows 95.

### Is there an Administrative Setup for network installations?

The /A and /N Setup switches have been replaced by the Netsetup tool. This tool is available in the CD-ROM version of Windows 95. Network administrators can use this tool to set up a shared copy of Windows 95 that others

can use to set up local or shared Windows 95 installations. Users can also create custom scripts to automate the Setup process from the shared copy of Windows 95.

### What versions of MS-DOS and Microsoft Windows can I upgrade to Windows 95?

You can upgrade Windows version 3.0 or later, Windows for Workgroups version 3.1 or later, or MS-DOS or OEM-DOS version 3.2 or later.

### Can I install Windows 95 on a computer that dual-boots Windows NT and MS-DOS?

Yes. To install Windows 95 on a computer that dual-boots Windows NT and MS-DOS, start the computer in MS-DOS and run Setup either in Windows 3.1 or at an MS-DOS prompt. You cannot install Windows 95 in a directory with a shared Windows 3.1 and Windows NT configuration. In this situation, you must install Windows 95 in a different directory.

If your computer boots Windows NT, you must configure the computer to dual-boot MS-DOS and Windows NT and follow the instructions in the paragraph above. If you start the computer from an MS-DOS disk and then run Setup, you will no longer be able to boot Windows NT. However, you can restore Windows NT by starting the computer from the Windows NT Boot/Repair disk and then selecting the Repair option.

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### Can I install Windows 95 and still boot MS-DOS and Windows 3.1?

Windows 95 supports booting the earlier version of the operating system if you are using MS-DOS version 5.0 or later or IBM(R) PC-DOS version 5.0 or later. You cannot boot any version of DR DOS. When you install Windows 95 in a new directory, Setup automatically makes the required adjustments so the computer can dual-boot Windows 95 and MS-DOS. To

boot MS-DOS on a Windows 95 computer with dual-boot enabled, press F4 or F8 when you see the "Starting Windows 95" message.

If you install Windows 95 in a new directory, you must reinstall all your Windows-based programs for them to run properly in Windows 95. If you upgrade your earlier version of Windows to Windows 95, you do not need to reinstall your Windows-based programs because Windows 95 retains your settings.

### When I run Windows 95 Setup in Windows 3.0, Setup tells me that it requires a newer version of Windows. How do I upgrade Windows 3.0?

To upgrade Windows 3.0 to Windows 95, run Setup from MS-DOS and choose to install Windows 95 in the same directory as Windows 3.0.

### I upgraded my installed versions of MS-DOS and Windows to Windows 95. How can I boot my earlier version of MS-DOS?

Although you cannot run the earlier version of Windows, you can boot the earlier version of MS-DOS. To do so, use the following three steps:

1. Type the following command at an MS-DOS prompt to remove the system, hidden, and read-only attributes of the Msdos.sys file:

```
attrib c:\msdos.sys -s -h -r
```

2. Use a text editor (such as Notepad) to edit the Msdos.sys file and add the following line to the [Options] section of the file:

```
BootMulti=1
```

3. Restart your computer and press F4 or F8 when you see the "Starting Windows 95" message.

NOTE: When you boot an earlier version of MS-DOS, some of the MS-DOS commands may not work. This behavior occurs because Windows 95 removes some MS-DOS utilities.

### Can I install Windows 95 on a computer running IBM OS/2?

Setup does not run in OS/2. However, you can install Windows 95 on a computer running OS/2 if you boot MS-DOS and run Setup from the MS-DOS prompt.

If you use OS/2 Boot Manager to choose operating systems at startup, note that Windows 95 Setup disables Boot Manager to ensure that it can restart the computer and complete the installation. You can reactivate Boot Manager by running the FDISK tool that is shipped with Windows 95.

If you do not use OS/2 Boot Manager, you must configure your computer to use Boot Manager and then follow the instructions above.

### Does Windows 95 Setup work on a hard disk compressed with Stacker?

Yes. Windows 95 is compatible with Stacker version 2.0 or later, and with all versions of SuperStor™. Before you start Setup, make sure there is at least 1.5MB of free hard disk space on the host drive, or 8 MB if you use a permanent swap file. If there is not enough free space on the host drive, you must run a utility from the compression software's manufacturer to increase the amount of free hard disk space on the host drive.

### Can I install Windows 95 on a hard disk partitioned with OnTrack Disk Manager?

Yes. Windows 95 is compatible with Disk Manager and even provides a protected-mode driver for Disk Manager version 6.03 or later. If you use Disk Manager version 6.03 or later, Windows 95 automatically uses its protected-mode driver.

### After I set up Windows 95, I cannot access my CD-ROM drive. What do I do?

If your CD-ROM drive is not recognized by Windows 95, use the following steps:

1. Make sure the correct real-mode driver for the CD-ROM drive is installed on the hard disk. This driver is normally shipped with the CD-ROM drive kit. If you do not have this driver, please contact the CD-ROM drive manufacturer.



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2. Verify that the correct driver statement is in the Config.sys file, and that the driver statement specifies the correct path for the driver. For details about the specific driver statement for your CD-ROM drive, please consult the CD-ROM drive documentation or manufacturer.

3. Verify that Mscdex.exe is being loaded in the Autoexec.bat file, and that the Mscdex statement loads the Mscdex.exe file from the Windows\Command folder. For information about the Mscdex statement settings, please consult the CD-ROM drive documentation or manufacturer.

4. Restart Windows 95.

### What are the system requirements for installing Windows 95?

Your computer must meet these minimal requirements:

- Computer: 386DX, 20 MHz (or higher) processor.

- Memory: 4 MB (8 MB recommended). 8 MB is required to run The Microsoft

Network, Microsoft

Exchange, or multiple 32-bit programs.

- Hard Disk: 20 to 90 MB of available hard disk space. The actual space required depends on whether you are upgrading to Windows 95 and the Setup option you choose.

- Video: VGA or higher resolution (SVGA recommended).

- Peripheral: High-density floppy disk drive, CD-ROM drive, or the ability to install from a network server.

- Pointing Device: Microsoft Mouse or compatible pointing device.

### I upgraded to Windows 95, and now I do not see Program Manager. How do I run programs in Windows 95?

All of your Windows 3.1 program groups are converted into cascading menus off the Start menu in Windows 95. To run your programs in Windows 95, click the Start button, point to Programs, point to the group containing the program you want to run, then click the program's icon. Note that you need to click the program icon only once to start the program; you do not have to double-click the icon.

If you want to use Program Manager to run your programs, you can. To do so, click the Start button, click Run, type "progman" (without the quotation marks) in the Open box, and then press ENTER. Note that Program Manager does not use long filenames.

### How do I add or remove Windows 95 components?

To add or remove Windows 95 components, use these steps:

1. Click the Start button, point to Settings, and then click Control Panel.

2. Double-click the Add/Remove Programs icon.

3. Click the Windows Setup tab, and then follow the instructions on the tab.

### A friend has a version of Windows 95 that includes more features than my version. Why does my version not have the same features?

Windows 95 is available on CD-ROM and floppy disks. More components are included in the CD-ROM version because of the additional space available on the CD-ROM. To obtain the CD-ROM Extras for Windows 95 upgrade on

3.5-inch high-density disks, use the coupon included in your Windows 95 package. You can also download the CD-ROM Extras for Windows 95 upgrade from the Microsoft Software Library. For more information about downloading the CD-ROM Extras for Windows 95 upgrade, please see the Extra.txt file in Windows 95.

### How do I copy a floppy disk in Windows 95?

Use the following steps to copy a floppy disk:

1. Double-click My Computer.

2. Use the right mouse button to click the floppy disk drive containing the disk you want to copy, and then click Copy Disk on the menu that appears.

3. In the Copy From box, click the drive containing the disk you want to copy. In the Copy To box, click the drive containing the disk you want to copy to, and then click Start.

### What is a shortcut, and how do I add one to the Start menu?

A shortcut is a link to an object (such as a program or document). A shortcut can point to a file on your computer or a file on a network server. A shortcut can even point to a paragraph in a document. To add a shortcut to the Start menu, use the following two steps:

1. Use the right mouse button to click the taskbar, and then click Properties on the menu that appears.

2. On the Start Menu Programs tab, click Add and follow the instructions.

For more information about creating shortcuts, click the Start button, click Help, click the Index tab, and search for "shortcuts."

### What is Microsoft Plus! for Windows 95?

Microsoft Plus! for Windows 95 is a software package that includes many add-ons for Windows 95, such as:

- Microsoft Internet Explorer (so you can surf the Internet)

- Dial-Up Networking Server (so other computers can dial in to your computer)

- New DriveSpace disk compression

- 3D Pinball

- Desktop Themes (so you can personalize your desktop with wallpaper, icons, and screen savers)

### How can I view two drives at one time as I did using File Manager in Windows 3.1?

To view two drives in Windows 95, open two instances of Windows Explorer or My Computer.

### How do I create or modify file associations in Windows 95?

To create, modify, or remove file associations, use the following three steps:

1. Double-click My Computer.

2. On the View menu, click Options.

3. Click the File Types tab. To create a file association, click New Type. To modify an association, click the file type in the Registered File Types box, and then click Edit. To remove an association, click the file type, and then click Remove.

When you double-click a file type without an association, Windows 95 opens a dialog box so you can create an association if you want.

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# PC Survival Guide

So you've bought that new computer ...

# NOW WHAT?

Alan Zisman

So you've bought that new computer... now what?

Even though, for many families, a computer is one of the biggest purchases they'll make... not on a scale with the house or the car, but a biggie none the

less, it can be a disappointing experience. And in too many cases, it can end up in the closet, or a glorified games machine... at ten times the cost of a Super-Nintendo.

How can you avoid those disappointments?

By having realistic expectations about your new purchase, and by taking the time to learn to use it.

## That Out of Box Experience

Today, you can buy a computer in a department store or an office or electronics superstore— just across from home stereos, refrigerators, and toasters. Often, the salesperson will have been selling home appliances just last week. Unfortunately, even though they are being marketed like appliances, computers aren't quite that easy to use. There are reasons why there are computer user groups, but no toaster user groups (at least that I know of).

Still, computer manufacturers have tried to work on the "Out of Box Experience"... you can buy a computer, get it home, and find that it can be set up and turned on, all without requiring an advanced engineering degree. This has always been true for Macintosh models, and is increasingly the case with the more common, but more complex, PCs. Even the later, are typically coming with plugs and cables that can only be inserted one way, and with software pre-installed. It should be possible to set it up, turn it on, and have a series of icons appear, showing what software is available, ready to work.

Before you go any further, take a quick inventory. Make a list of what you got— hardware and software. Note manufacturer, model, and serial numbers. Did you get original floppy disks and manuals for your system software (Mac OS, or DOS and Windows), and for any applications pre-installed on your hard drive? Some manufacturers, in order to save a few dollars, don't give you original floppy disks, but give you manuals... in these cases, there is often a program on the hard drive to let you make backup copies of the software onto floppy disks. Use it— hard drives fail, and you'll be grateful for the backup diskettes. If you don't have manuals for your software, you may not have legitimate copies, which could pose problems later on if you try to get technical support or upgrade to a newer version.

Some dealers offer multi-megabytes of shareware on your hard drive. Shareware programs are free for you to try out, or to copy, and share with your friends. Be aware that if you want to keep using shareware programs, you are expected to register with the program's creator, paying a registration fee. You'll notice that many shareware programs will nag you, either when you start or when you close them— until you do register.

## Make That New Printer Work for You

In most cases, the first technical problem you'll have to face will be telling your computer what sort of printer is attached. If you have Windows 95, and a re-



cent printer model, it may be able to find out this information for itself— but otherwise, if your computer has no way of knowing what sort of printer you're using unless you tell it. Try printing with the wrong information, and you may find pages of meaningless symbols and text spewing out of your printer.

In the bad-old DOS days, you had to do this separately for each piece of software installed. Now with Windows, or on a Macintosh, you only have to do this once... and all your software will be able to make use of the information. In Windows, double-click on the Main program group, and look for the icon that says Control Panel. Double-click on it.

(If phrases like 'double-click' and 'icon' are meaningless to you, find a child— they all intuitively understand these concepts).

Control Panel will open up, showing another window full of icons... find the one labeled Printer, and double-click on it. (Get it— double-clicking opens up an icon, running a program). It will give you a 'dialogue box'... a standard way for your computer to get information from you. You may be very lucky, and see your actual make and model of printer listed in the top left-corner, as the 'default'... the printer that will be used unless you say otherwise. More likely, no printers are listed there, or some random, incorrect model. If so, click once on the button labeled Add. (See, there is some logic to this process, at least some of the time).

This will get you another box, with a list of several hundred printer makes and models, listed alphabetically. Inevitably, your model will be far down the list, out of sight. Time to practice a new skill, manipulating 'scroll bars'. On the right-hand edge of the list, you'll see a

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# iNTERNET DIRECT

## INTERNET Reference Guide

British Columbia & Alberta Edition

### Inside

- Accessing the Internet
- Choosing an Internet Provider
- Detailed Internet Diagram
- Flat Rate Access vs. Metered Access
- Internet Facts



Issue.1



## QUICK INTERNET FACTS

- In the late '60s the Internet starts as a United States military experiment to create a rugged communications system to withstand nuclear war.
- In the early '70s researchers and scientists start to discover social uses for their experiment, and create accounts for their own personal communications.
- During the '70s and '80s groups and individuals other than government begin to own powerful computers and are able to access the existing networks.
- At the same time, similar computer networks in other countries begin to link up and the "network of networks" starts to look more like the Internet we see today.
- In the late '80s and early '90s widespread knowledge of the Internet hits the media. Individuals and groups join the Internet phenomenon at an increasing rate.
- Over 157 countries are connected to the Internet by 1995.
- At present, no one knows the exact number of Internet users but estimates vary to 40 million, with one million new users joining per month.

## THE INTERNET

This is what you've been waiting for or the Prime Minister. Transferring files. E-mail a note to your computer system for your business. Read for information on any topic

## INTERNET SERVICE

Internet Service Providers, such as Internet Service Providers, offer 24 hours of the day, every day of the year. Your speed and strength of your connection to the Internet and amount of support and assistance you receive when choosing an ISP see "Choosing an Internet Service Provider"

## FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS REFERRAL PROGRAM



### "FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS" REFERRAL PROGRAM

Internet Direct is offering its subscribers a WEEKLY chance to win a pair of plane tickets to anywhere in North America, Mexico or the Caribbean. Winners choose their destination! It's easy! Starting in October 1995, new subscribers who purchase an individual dial-up account with Internet Direct will receive a chance to win and existing subscribers will receive one entry each time they refer a "friend or neighbour" who also signs up. No limit on the number of entries per subscriber! Each new subscriber you recommend means another entry! For further details, address your inquiry to [contest@direct.ca](mailto:contest@direct.ca).

## TELEPHONE LINE

One regular, residential telephone connection is all you need. However, two lines are advised if you want to ensure that one line is always free for you to take phone calls. All telephone companies are capable of connecting your modem to an Internet Service Provider. You won't need to change from the company you already use.

## MODEM

This is the communications device that connects your computer, through a phone line, to the Internet. Internet experts generally agree that you get what you pay for when shopping for modems. Minimum requirements:

- 9600 baud modem
- Internet Direct recommends:  
an external modem (rather than an internal modem) 14.4 to 28.8 speed modems are optimum.

## COMPUTER

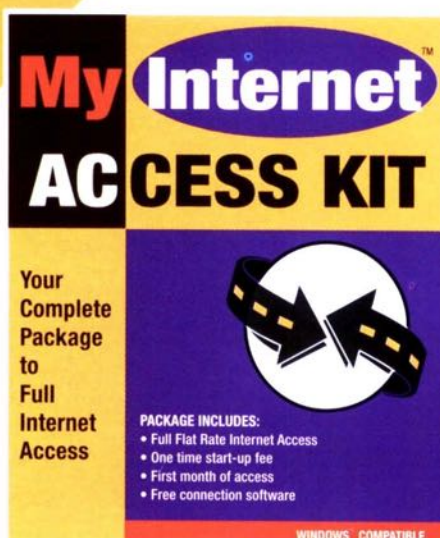
The quality of the system you purchase will reflect the reliability of your connection to the Internet. The foundation of your Internet connection depends on your hardware, and you should aim for as strong a foundation as possible.

- Minimum requirements: 386 or higher PC-compatible
- MS-Windows version 3.1 or higher
- 4 Megabytes of RAM
- Internet Direct recommends: SVGA colour monitor.

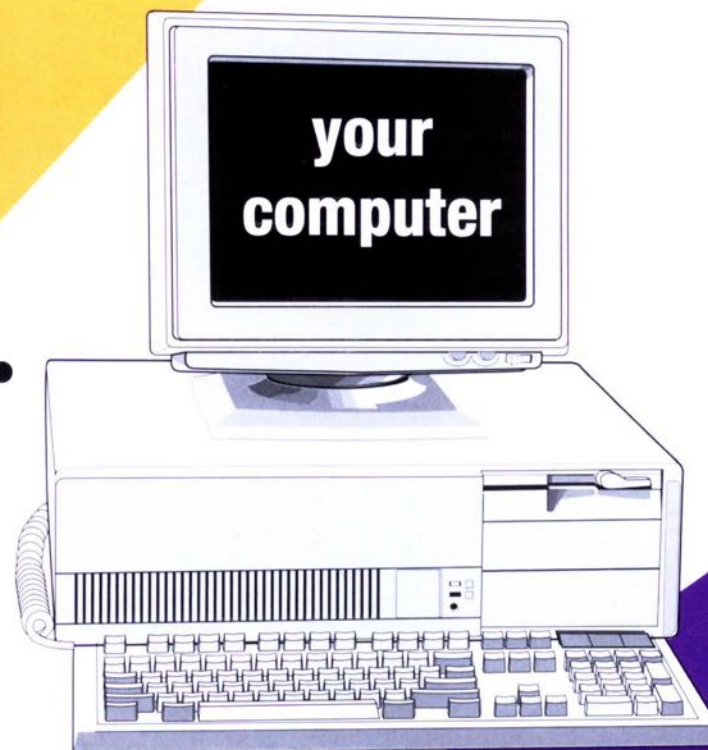
## SOFTWARE

At your local computer retailer, you will find a range of software packages, such as My Internet Access Kit. These programs are necessary to access the Internet. Internet Direct provides and delivers full-access software packages free of charge to new subscribers. Internet Direct provides:

- Trumpet Winsock version 2.0 revision B
- Win FTP released June 11, 1994
- Eudora version 1.4.4
- Win VN Usenet News Reader Public Domain
- Netscape Navigator version 1.0N



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# INTERNET DIRECT

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## CHOOSING AN INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER

The following are points to consider before committing to an Internet Service Provider (ISP):

### Hardware and Technology

- Is the ISP using high-quality modems?
  - Are the modems well known brand names?
  - What speed and volume are they capable of delivering?
- At this time T1 connections and 28.8 speed modems are top of the line.

### Telephone Connection

- ISPs are linked to the Internet by phone connections.
- Is your ISP working with a well-established, international telephone company?

### Rates

- Will the ISP give you a clear guarantee of monthly rates?
- If not, is their formula for determining monthly rates easy to keep track of?

### Technical and Customer Support

- Does the ISP have staff standing by to answer your questions and provide assistance in getting connected?

### Corporate Reputation

- How many subscribers have already opted for the services the ISP provides?
- Is the ISP serving only a small group of Internet users, or a cross-section of the whole community?
- Does the ISP have a strong reputation with local businesses?
- Do they have the financial resources and backing to expand with this fast-paced industry?

# INTERNET DIRECT

In 1994, two young Vancouver entrepreneurs, already successful in the communications industry, were having dinner with friends and discussing their idea of the perfect Internet Service Provider. What kept many people from experiencing the Internet, they agreed, was fear of the unknown. Not just the fear associated with a new form of technology, but fear of the potential cost and the hassle of signing up before even getting close to the Internet. Later that year David Wolstenholme and David Schulz ran a number of focus groups that confirmed their assumptions. Then they set out to create the solution. "Internet Direct's motto has been 'ease of access' from day one," says David Wolstenholme, "your Internet account is now just a phone call away."

Internet Direct's registration centre signs up all new subscribers by phone. At this point subscribers receive a "user id" and choose a password to activate their account. This phone call triggers free delivery of Internet access software for Windows that is pre-configured and ready to slip into a computer. The same simplicity is reflected in the company's pricing structure. Now the largest provider of Internet services in Canada, Internet Direct was the first company to offer Internet access at a flat fee per month. There is a one-time only registration fee upon sign-up, each month thereafter is a set price that does not vary with the amount of time users spend on the Internet. "As the number of subscribers choosing Internet Direct grows, so will the system and its capacity," says David Schulz. Internet Direct currently houses over 800, 28.8 speed modem lines. New lines are being added each month according to closely monitored statistics on the number of users and volume of Internet traffic. For registration with Internet Direct call: 488-1900 in Vancouver. For connection information outside the Lower Mainland call: 1-800-987-8884. Call Internet Direct's customer service line for general information about service at: (604) 602-1800 or e-mail [info@direct.ca](mailto:info@direct.ca).



## What Is The Internet?

Think of the Internet as a communication system for computers. It is a huge, international network that allows computers to talk to each other, regardless of type or location. This network, and all the information and capabilities it contains, is evolving and growing at a spectacular rate.

Each day the Internet is expanded and "re-invented" by the people using it. It has been called "the great leveller" because everyone is welcome to participate. Internet users around the globe have become a community of peers uniting diverse societies, cultures, economies and viewpoints.

## Why Would I Use It?

There are countless uses for the Internet and something to interest everyone "on-line". As a communications system you can send messages and "talk" to other users anywhere in the world without long distance charges. You can send long, complicated files or quick notes. You can communicate with your friends and family, business associates, clients, or people you've never met before who share similar opinions or interests. The Internet also has the potential to be the most revolutionary educational tool in history. Many of the world's prestigious centres of learning share their knowledge on the Internet. Adults and children alike can benefit from free and

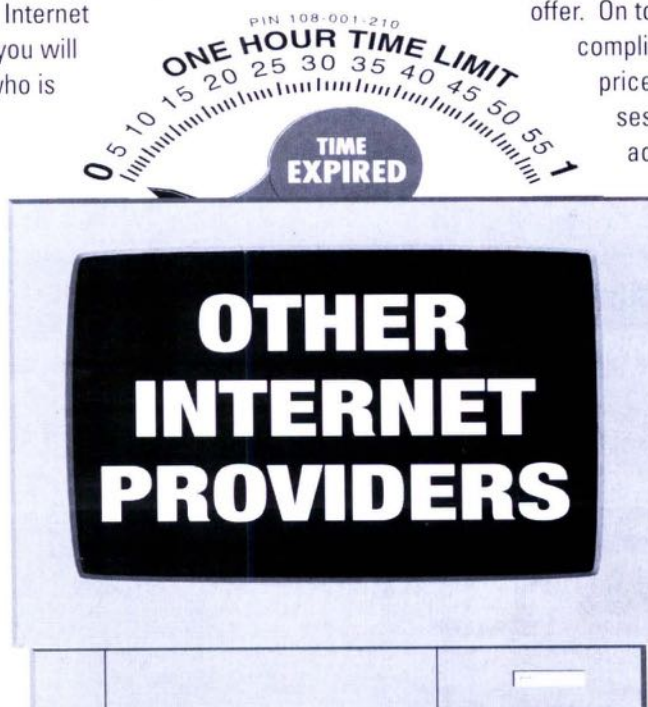
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## Advantages Of Flat Rate Service

Recently there has been an explosion in the number of Internet Service Providers, or ISPs, offering what may seem to be similar Internet connection services. Investigating how and how much you will be charged for your account is a good way to pinpoint who is actually offering superior service. Pricing structures for ISPs fall into two main categories of "metered" or "flat-rate" access. Customers of metered ISPs must pay for each minute they use the Internet. While paying only for the time you're "on-line" may seem logical and simple on the surface, you might want to consider a few of these facts before committing to a metered provider. For instance, should you find more and more uses for the Internet in your life, and consequently spend more and more time on-line, you will definitely be paying more and more! Also, if there is one activity during which it is easy to lose track of time it's "surfing the net." Internet users in some cities in the United States who subscribe to metered ISPs spend a whopping \$165.00 per month, on average. And, if you are on a budget, keeping track of your time with

metered providers could inhibit your enjoyment of what the Internet has to offer. On top of this, many metered ISPs use frustratingly complicated formulas to determine your monthly bill. Their prices can vary according to the time of day, day of the week, sessions per week, and even modem speed that you use to access the Internet.

Flat-rate Internet service provides you with peace of mind when compared to these run-away costs that are hard to verify. A stable rate can be more easily incorporated into a monthly budget, while still accommodating a growing interest and amount of use. Internet Direct's success as an Internet Service Provider is closely related to its assurance of flat-rate service to its customers. With Internet Direct there are no surprises or guessing games each month. Full Internet access with free software and delivery starts from as low as \$19.95 per month in the Vancouver area. For connection and flat rate information in Vancouver call (604) 488-1900. In Victoria, Kelowna and Alberta regions call Toll-Free: 1-800-987-8884



## virtual vocabulary:

- **E-mail-** Electronic mail is a method of sending messages to other Internet users without having to pay long distance charges.
- **World Wide Web-** The most popular, interactive, visual and aural component of the Internet.
- **Browsers-** Software, such as Netscape and Mosaic, that allow different computers to view the same information or "sites" on the World Wide Web.
- **Web Pages-** Pages containing text, images and sounds which you can view or listen to with a browser.
- **Hyperlinks-** "Clickable" areas of text or images in Web pages which move you to another directory or location on the Internet.
- **HTML-** Hyper Text Markup Language is the standard code used to create Web Pages. Your browser will automatically translate HTML into a readable format on your screen.
- **Download-** The term used for "pulling down" information from the Internet for your own use.
- **Upload-** The term used for sending data files on the Internet. Information can be uploaded and sent to other users on the Internet or "posted" to newsgroups.
- **FTP-** File Transfer Protocol is the standard used for uploading and downloading different files on the Internet.
- **Newsgroups-** On-line discussion groups on thousands of subjects. You can post messages and read what others have posted. Everyone is welcome to voice an opinion.

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### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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I feel that the impact the Internet will have on modern life can be symbolized only by referring to such great communication inventions as the radio and telephone, and even the Gutenberg printing press. As futurist Frank Ogden said:

"...in the past there were the Have and the Have Nots, now we have the Know and Know Nots. During Gutenberg's time the very rich had the access to knowledge through books and writings. This gave them power over the common folk....this changed forever the social structure."

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*David Schulz*  
David Schulz  
President and Co-founder  
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long, narrow, grey band, with arrows on top and bottom. Clicking on the down arrow with your mouse, moves you down the list, one line at a time. The up arrow moves you up. But that's too slow... Notice that there is a lighter grey square, at the top of the tube. Think of it as an elevator in a shaft. Clicking below the elevator, in the shaft, will move you down the list more quickly—a page at a time. Clicking above the elevator moves you back up. Here's a trick—type the first letter of your printer's name ("H" for a Hewlett Packard Deskjet, for example), will jump you to the first item with a name starting with that letter.

If you find your exact model, click on the Okay button (or press Enter, which does the same thing). But if your printer isn't on the list, it's time to crack open the printer manual. Most printers will emulate another, more popular, or older model... imitating the other model, so it can still be used, even with software that was written before your printer came out onto the market. The manual should tell you what other printer models can be used instead... often a popular Epson or

Hewlett Packard model, or an older printer from the same manufacturer.

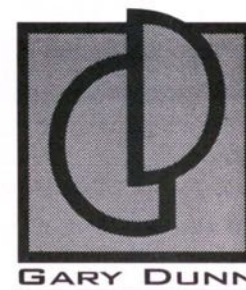
Once you've found a printer driver that will work with your actual model, you need to tell your computer how it is attached. Windows will assume that your printer is attached to something called, in computer jargon, LPT1: — the first printer port. Luckily, in most cases, that's correct, so you can leave this setting alone. Click Okay, and your printer is configured. Assuming the cable is connected between the computer and the printer, and the printer is plugged in, and you've added paper and toner... you can print! (Note that many printers are shipped with plastic pieces (often some

bright colour like orange) that help prevent damage in shipping... you will need to remove them before using the printer. Again, when in doubt, consult the manual).

Congratulations! You've successfully worked with both your software and hardware, to make your system work for you. You are now a computer user—hear you roar!

## Manage a File or Two

Try out a few basic file management tasks. Learn how to use your computer to format a floppy diskette (not your hard drive!), and to copy and rename files. (Hint— in Windows 3.something, look for a program called File Manager (in your Main group) to do this). If you have a PC, get used to trying to cram descriptive and unique filenames into a mere 8 letters (no spaces allowed). If you have a Mac, you're allowed to gloat, at least until all your PC-using friends get Windows 95 or OS/2, and get to use long filenames like you. Try to make sense of the way your computer organizes files into folders or directories.



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Maybe now you should take stock and think about what you hope to accomplish with your new tool.

### Have I Got Some Software For You!

Almost everyone with a computer uses it for word processing. What else do you hope to use it for? Bookkeeping for home or a small business? Checking out the much-hyped Internet or other on-

line resources? Creating artwork or page designs for brochures or posters? Keeping track of customers, inventory, sales? Playing games?

Computers are multi-purpose machines... they can perform multiple functions, depending on the software that is loaded. Often, computer owners find themselves collecting software, or compulsively upgrading, to make sure they

always have the latest—and presumably greatest. This isn't always necessary, and can involve unneeded expense, as well as making sure that you never really learn to do anything very well.

A simpler, less expensive program may be more effective than the 'biggest and the best' in any given product category—in many cases, these are loaded with lots of extra functions that, if you

don't need them, make the program bigger, slower, and more complex (as well as more expensive). Many students, home, and small business users will find, for example, that one of the integrated 'Works'-type packages provides all the word processing power they need, as well as basic spreadsheet and database functions... all at a fraction of the cost (and hard drive space) of one of the major 'Suites'—collections of power-packed word processors, spreadsheets, and more.

As well, simple home finance packages, such as the wildly popular Quicken, may provide all the bookkeeping help an individual will need (though a business will probably need something more formally structured according to accounting principles—Quicken's cousin, QuickBooks may do the trick).

### Help? Help!

Inevitably, as you try to use software, you're going to have questions... some of us have more questions, sooner, than others. How to get help? The best way is going to be different for each of us—we all learn in different ways. And in some ways, it's become harder to get help, while in others, it has become easier. Here are some options:

— ask a friend. People with computer skills (like people who own small trucks) find they are always in demand, with friends and acquaintances wanting assistance. For many of them, this has become quite a bother... if you are asking for help, be prepared to put up with some amount of grumbling, and offer some sort of reward—food, particularly chocolate is almost always appreciated.

— read a book. Software traditionally comes with manuals, which are typically ignored by users. (A cliché among the computer-skilled, is to tell novices to "RTFM"... Read The Something Manual). Often, that's because software manuals are virtually unreadable, unless you already know so much that you don't need to read the manual... old DOS manuals were classics of this sort. Instead, a large segment of the publishing industry has become devoted to helping people with computers. Recently, books with names like "\_\_\_\_\_ for Dummies", "\_\_\_\_\_ for Idiots" (insert your software name in the blank) have become wildly popular, combining advice for beginners with jokes and cartoons. Surprisingly, these books can be quite effective, even if the cartoons are frequently dumb.

Recently, many software manufacturers have started providing less and less printed documentation, both to save costs, and because they rightly suspect

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that most users ignore the manuals, anyway. In some cases, you'll now find a slim 'Getting Started' guide in the box—which may be more readable than an old style manual. Or some or all of the documentation may be on a CD-disk or installed onto your hard drive. Try clicking on the menu item labeled Help, in your program, and see what's available.

— run a tutorial. Some of us can't learn very well from a book, even one aimed at 'dummies'. Some of us, however, can learn by practicing on the computer. More and more programs include some sort of on-disk tutorial. If available, this will probably be accessed from that same Help menu. Give it a try— some people find it very useful.

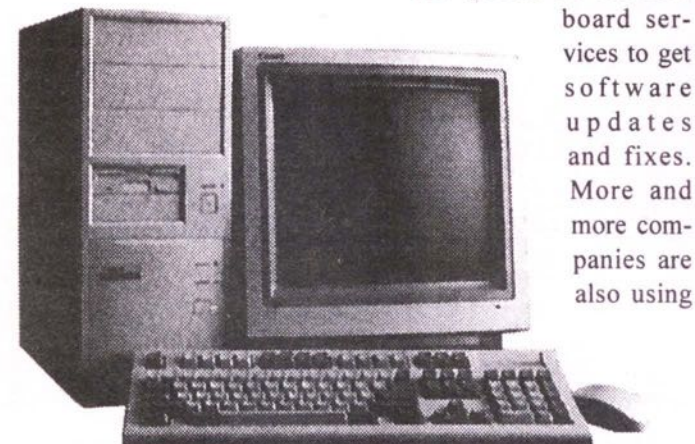
Other companies offer software or even video cassettes, with more tutorials than are included with the program. In some cases, you can even find some of these in your public library.

— take a class. School boards, community colleges, universities, and several private companies have found that they can offer a wide range of computer and software night-school classes. Make sure, however, that you sign up for a class that's appropriate to your needs... I know a couple who bought a computer, and immediately signed up for a community college's introductory class, only to find themselves learning to convert numbers into binary and hexadecimal (base 16) notation, when they actually wanted to learn about how to use their word processor. Make sure that the class you take includes hand-on experience working with the software that you want to learn.

— join a users group. Many communities, and even some companies and organizations, have volunteer users groups. These may be large and generalized, such as Vancouver's massive PC Users' Group, or smaller, focusing on a special interest piece of hardware or software. Group meetings often include open-ended time for users to help one-another. (And users group members often get discounts on buying hardware or software).

— phone the company. Support from companies is becoming harder and harder to get... companies have found that it is a major cost, and one that they are trying to cut back on. A few years ago, many companies provided unlimited free phone support, in some cases, with 1-800 numbers. The 1-800 numbers are almost all gone, and unlimited free support is disappearing. Instead, most companies offer limited time free support (often 90 days from your first phone call). And be prepared to spend a long time on hold (at your long-distance expense) waiting to speak to a support person. Instead, companies are offering a variety of pay-for-support plans, ranging from 1-900 added cost phone calls, to prepaid plans providing support over a longer period of time.

In place of speaking to a technical support person, many companies are expanding alternatives— free fax-back services, for example, where you phone an automated system that faxes you a document focusing on one of a number of common questions, are increasingly popular. So are company run phone-in bulletin



board services to get software updates and fixes. More and more companies are also using

the Internet as a way to distribute technical advice, ranging from sending e-mail to a technician, to getting documents and software.

Inevitable, most of us learn something (in whatever style works best for us), when there's a reason— you're more likely to learn to use your word processor, when you have some project that you want to write. I learned to use a spreadsheet one Spring Break after someone suggested I could use one to manage my class marks.

And that's the key— computers are a powerful tool, but only a tool. Get one when you have a need for it, and you'll be motivated to find a way to use it successfully. If you get one without a clearly-defined need, it's too easy to become frustrated, and end up with an expensive collection of boxes in the basement. □

**About the author:** Alan Zisman can be reached at e-mail: [alan\\_zisman@computer-player.com](mailto:alan_zisman@computer-player.com)

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# Good CD-ROM producers wear many hats

Philip Hyams

If you're familiar with PCs, you're probably aware of the phenomenal impact which CD-ROM technology is making today in the computer field. A CD-ROM looks exactly like an audio CD, but the similarity stops there. A CD-ROM can store not only audio, but also video, computer data, photographs and animation. This makes CD-ROMs ideal for multimedia programs. One can acquire a CD-ROM drive today for about \$150.00. The past year has seen an incredible number of CD-ROM titles launched in the international marketplace, everything from games and educational to productivity and training. Taking the above into consideration, we must also realize that the single, most important factor in all of the changes taking place today in the realm of computer technology, is undoubtedly the human one.

Remarkably, there is a serious shortage of multimedia producers to meet the demands imposed by new technological developments. In an era of changing economies and revolutionary technologies, the

profession of CD-ROM Producer, like no other, epitomizes the skills and "knowledge worker" talents required to successfully create and compete in this new age of cyber-business and global marketing. Yet, there are still very few multimedia producers active in this remarkable and cutting-edge field. I interviewed, Claudio Baiocchi of Microforum Inc. - one of Canada's foremost interactive multimedia producers to find out why, but also to find out what the future may hold for all of us.

**CP:** Claudio, the words "interactive" and "multimedia" are being used so frequently today, I wonder if people really are aware of what these terms mean? Could you define what a multimedia or CD-ROM producer is?

**Claudio Baiocchi:** Well, a multimedia producer is an individual that is competent in a wide variety of different technologies and art forms; a person who is able to combine many forms of technology and art into a cohesive final product, such as an interactive CD-ROM.

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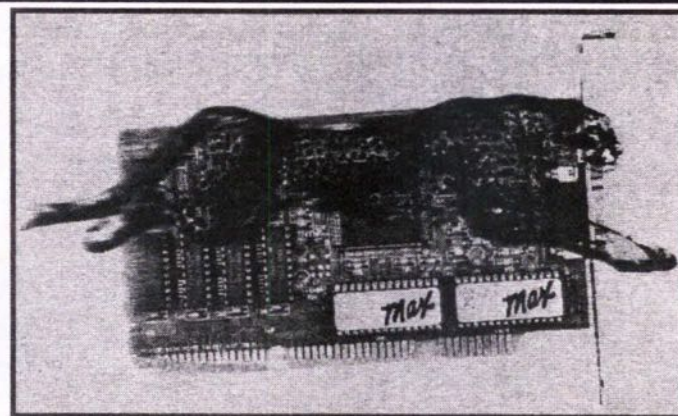
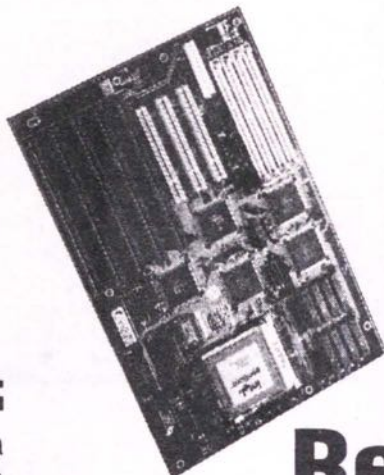
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### HARDWARE

A good design can count as much as memory when producing Microsoft Windows accelerators ... the \$279 Focus 2 the max TrueSpeed W32i ... Managed to post impressive score on our benchmark test ... also were at the top in terms of their DOS video scores. Impressive performance at a relatively low price earned ... an honorable mention.



### HARDWARE

#### Graphics Adapters

The second-fastest of these nine boards on our AutoCAD tests was the Focus 2 the max TrueSpeed. By opting for third-party drivers instead of the S3 versions, though, you'll get extra convenience features - bird's-eye views, panning, pop-up menus, zooming. By the time you read this, however, S3 plans to be shipping updated AutoCAD drivers that support these features.

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**CP:** Why are multimedia producers in such demand today?

**Claudio:** First of all, because of the recent boom in computer hardware and powerful game platforms, CD-ROM drives, optical cables and so on. Since it is really a position which only developed in the past few years due to the advent of interactive technology, it is extremely difficult to find people who have experience as multimedia producers. There are individuals with experience in the various fields which multimedia incorporates, but usually, they are only qualified in one or two of the disciplines required to produce a successful multimedia product. So you see...it is hard to find that special someone with experience in the wide variety of fields which multimedia encompasses.

**CP:** How did you get started?

**Claudio:** My background includes programming, creative direction and marketing. In 1989, I joined forces with my father, and about four years ago had the opportunity to move Microforum into multimedia production. At that time it was a gamble but it paid off. Right now, Microforum is the largest producer of CD-ROM products in Canada. A few years back, if someone had told me that I was going to end up with one of the toughest

jobs in the world...well...I wouldn't have believed that person. I have produced over 30 CD-ROMs from games to educational products and every project gets harder instead of easier. The fact is that the technology has expanded the creative processes, and in order to realize a high-quality CD-ROM product, the multimedia producer must have the expertise in the required fields for product creation.

**CP:** Why is it so difficult to be a multimedia producer?

**Claudio:** First of all, let me explain a bit about interactive multimedia technology. With a CD-ROM product, you are able to interact with a variety of different technologies such as Video, Animation, Graphics, Programming and Sound. It takes an exceptional individual to keep up with each different technology in order to get the most from it. For example, only a few years ago you could only play a small size video clip on your computer. Today, you can play full-size video. In fact, the new fast-action game we are about to launch, "Expect No Mercy", is using technology that did not exist six months ago.. The technology is just changing too fast. It's so hard to keep up with it! So, you see, these things make the job of multimedia producer quite demanding.

(Continued on page 44)

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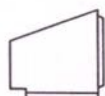
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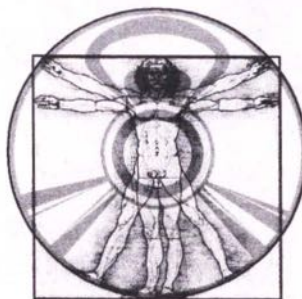
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# Database Developments

John Hamm

## Visual FoxPro 3.0

Visual FoxPro 3.0 is the latest incarnation of Microsoft's version of dbase. dbase (with a small "d" or sometimes an "x") is the venerable dean of pc database languages. FoxPro has always been

a fast and powerful desktop database management product in that category and the latest release is no exception. The new "visual" interface makes tasks such as form design both fun and easy.

Visual FoxPro is a BIG program and you should probably avoid it if your data management needs are few. FoxPro is over-kill on small projects such as

mailing lists. If you have Windows and a 486 or better we would recommend Lotus Approach or Microsoft Access for these projects. Both products are easy to use and have sufficient depth should you become obsessed with the labyrinths and patterns you are discovering in your data.

## A Developer's Database

FoxPro is specifically designed with the developer in mind. The underlying assumption is that you will be writing programs for someone else to use, even if that someone is yourself wearing a different hat. The Microsoft Fox team have completely re-designed FoxPro with this release bringing developers the popular "visual" interface, which in a Windows context, significantly simplifies the process of application development.

If you are going invest time in learning to use this product you should be sure your clients are using 486's or are prepared to upgrade. On a 386 your applications will run like molasses. Considering that most users expect instantaneous response this can be the kiss of death. On the other hand, even if you are continuing to develop in the DOS world it is inevitable that your clients are going to go Windows eventually. Visual FoxPro is an excellent place to start getting prepared for the switch.

## Should Newcomers Bother with xbase?

If you are a newcomer to database management with an interest in getting into programmable databases there are several options now available. xbase products have been around for over 15 years. This has its advantages in that there are a tremendous amount of resources out there that have built up over the years. But then there is a whole new generation of products such as Visual Basic, Delphi and Access. There is a tremendous momentum behind these new products and we suspect that newcom-

ers will be better off investing their time in learning one of these.

But for the thousands of developers who have years of investment in the xbase language Visual FoxPro 3.0 is confirmation that the language will continue to be supported into the future and will continue to benefit from the latest developments in software engineering and technology.

This assessment was carried out on a 486/66 with 16MB of RAM and was made with the Standard Edition of Visual FoxPro under Windows 95.

Visual FoxPro has been said to be unstable under Windows 3.1 and 3.11 so should only be used with Windows 95 or Windows NT.

## Two editions

Visual FoxPro is distributed in two formats. The Standard Edition and the Professional Edition. The Professional Edition, for a couple of hundred more dollars, comes with a compiler, a couple of extra bells and whistles, and complete documentation.

Unfortunately the Standard edition come with sparse printed documentation. In particular, the Language Reference is missing. While it is included in the online help, the printed volume is really needed for serious study. One of the nice things about xbase is that once you know the basic commands you can learn new commands in a leisurely fashion. It is only by reading the Language Reference in your favourite chair that you can browse the commands you've never looked at before and say "wow!" when you discover an "I didn't know you could do THAT!"

Apart from the lack of a Language Reference we found the Standard Edition to be quite acceptable for our purposes. Of course if we were developing applications for clients we would use the Professional Edition since the compiler enables

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your users to use your application without having to purchase their own version of Visual FoxPro. And the production of a single exe file makes it much easier to distribute your applications.

## The Visual Interface

If you have not taken a look at the new "visual" programming tools we will try to briefly explain how they work.

The common characteristics are a toolbox or toolbar that contains icons or pictures of common windows' components such as the check box, the combo box, the file/open dialog box, scroll bars, command buttons etc.

Generally you start with a form in a window. By clicking on one of the icons in the toolbox you can then click on the form and drop the component on your form. For instance you may click on the command button icon and then click on your form to place a command button there.

The next step is to write some code to associate with the button, to tell it what to do. Usually, and in Visual FoxPro, if you click on the button when in design mode a text editing window will pop up where you will write your code. This will often be as simple as a one line command such as "DO update"

Each component has a myriad of properties which are displayed in a property window. Click on "background colour" for instance to pop up a colour chart from which to select. "Click" and your command button is Bright Red!

Visual FoxPro 3.0 implements this visual methodology in a fairly typical manner. It does it well and seems stable enough.

## Object Orientation

FoxPro has finally incorporated Object Oriented Programming (OOP) into its xbase language and the implementation is reasonably complete.

What is truly significant about the visual approach is that you really don't have to investigate the language constructs to use it. Objects are things like your bright red command button. After you have customized a standard component you can save it as a class. You can then add that class to your toolbox and use that icon to put nice bright red command buttons throughout your application preserving your "look and feel". If you change the color of your base class button to green, all the command buttons will be green wherever they were used.

Objects are something like templates except that when you change the underlying object, all objects you copied from it now have these changes. This can have unexpected results. The default properties inherited from the parent ob-

ject can be over-ridden or changed in the child object.

Of course all the visual effects can be achieved or fine-tuned programmatically. It is also possible to create effects at run time that are not visible in design mode.

Events are also easy to program. The property list for each component lists all the available events such as GotFocus, KeyPressed, Click. One of the properties is the VALID function; when you click on that property a text editor window pops up where you can write code to check the entry for validity, was the date entered within a certain range? If the validity check fails the user can't leave the textbox until valid data is entered.

## The grid component

The grid in the standard toolbox is a spreadsheet-like box or Browse Grid you can place on a form to display your information in rows and columns.

The grid component will probably be the most-used control of the bunch. It is very simple in conception but the variety of properties and methods associated with it and each of its sub-objects: the column, the header and the cells of each column in the grid is astounding. The process of customizing your grid can be truly obsessive.

The development of customized grids or browse screens can be time-consuming but the ability to reuse and descend new grids from a parent-type makes up for it many times over.

This is object-oriented programming made very easy.

## Assessment

Visual FoxPro is an excellent addition to the choices now available to Windows database developers. It should also make an excellent product for people who want to make the transition from DOS-based programming to Windows.

Some of the interface components seem not quite finished. For instance the text editor lacks many features such as colour-coded syntax. Perhaps the pressure to get product out forced release before it was ready. In any case, we found no serious reasons to wait for release 3.1 though we hope it will be soon.

Next month we hope to have initial impressions of Visual dBase, the other option in the xbase Windows world. □

**About the author:** John Hamm is a consultant and database application developer at Eastside DataGraphics, Tel: 255-9559, email: John\_Hamm@MindLink.bc.ca

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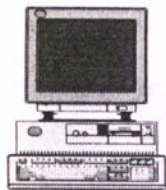
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# MS Works95 - MS Office, Junior Edition

review of Microsoft Works 4.0 for Windows 95

Alan Zisman

Microsoft Works, one of the classic so-called integrated programs, is out with a new edition, version 4.0. It has been available for years, as a low-cost program combining word processing, spreadsheet, database, telecommunications, and graphics, in DOS and Mac versions, and more recently, in a Windows 3 version. Currently, version 4.0 is only available in a version for Microsoft's new Windows 95 environment.

As with all Win 95 programs, Works 95 is able to take advantage of the features of this operating system—long file names, easier to use dialogue boxes, and more stable pre-emptive multitasking. As well, since integrated programs are most likely to be purchased for use in homes, schools, or small businesses, Microsoft has worked hard

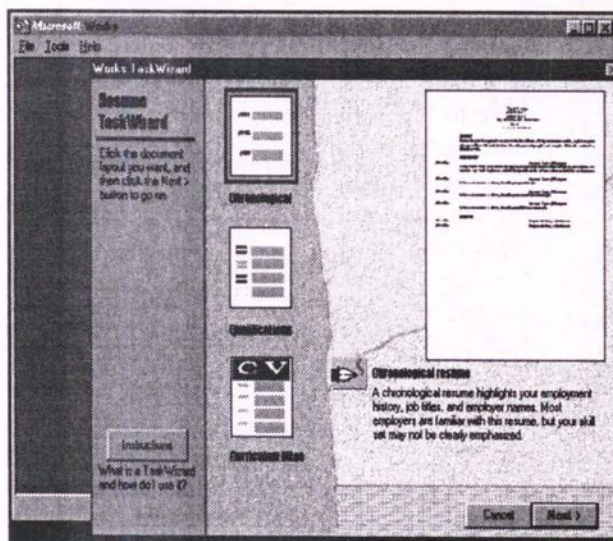
to improve the program's ease of use in these contexts.

The program doesn't ship with a manual. While this will be missed by some users (such as me), I suspect that Microsoft has discovered that most users don't read software manuals. Instead, there's a very brief introductory booklet... 'The Works Companion', claiming

to provide 'Real World Solutions for the Work You Do'. But the real information is on disk, and to a large extent, on screen.

By default, when you open Works, you are presented with a list of common document types—Wizards and Templates for resumes, reports, budgets—all sorts of basic home and business correspondence and documents. These make it easy to get started with a properly formatted document, ready to customize with your own text or data. If you prefer, you can set it instead to start with a view of previously saved documents, or with your choice of a new word processor, spreadsheet, database, or communications session..

When you actually get into the program, you'll find your working view devotes only two-thirds of your screen to your document—a pane on the right is filled with Help Contents, chosen as appropriate to the task



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you're working on. If you don't like this arrangement, you can shrink the Help window to a narrow bar, until you actually need it.

While the bulk of the changes in Works has been directed towards ease of use for novice computer owners (as shown by the increased use of Wizards, and the on-screen help), there have been some additions to the basic feature set. The for a while now, many programs have sported toolbars with a drop-down font list, the Word-95 equivalent shows how the fonts look—The name Times Roman is shown in Times Roman font, for example. Quotes are automatically changed to typesetters' curly quotes, rather than a typewriter's straight quotes that really stand for feet and inches — you can get straight quotes when you need them, but you have to ask.

You can store a collection of often-used items— your return address, for example, quickly adding them to your work, by selecting Insert Easy Text. You can use tools such as the Spell Checker with the spreadsheet and database, unlike the previous version, which limited it to the word processor. By default, the word processor shows a Page Layout view, with the page breaks, headers and footers appearing realistically on screen. You can now add a header (or footer) by moving to that area on the page, and simply typing it in, rather than memorizing codes like "&lHere's My Title&rby Alan Zisman" to obtain a header reading:

Here's My Title by Alan Zisman

If you prefer, you can select a more traditional word processor view. You can zoom in for more precise page layout, and can easily insert your choice of 24 bullet styles. For Canadians, there's a choice between a British and American spell checker.

Form letter, envelope, and label wizards simplify these common, but often confusing tasks.

The spreadsheet now features in-cell editing, in addition to the older-style editing bar. Database reporting has been simplified, while the output has become much more sophisticated. All documents can be sent directly as e-mail, and a number of additional import and export formats have been added.

The result of the new help, Wizards, and features

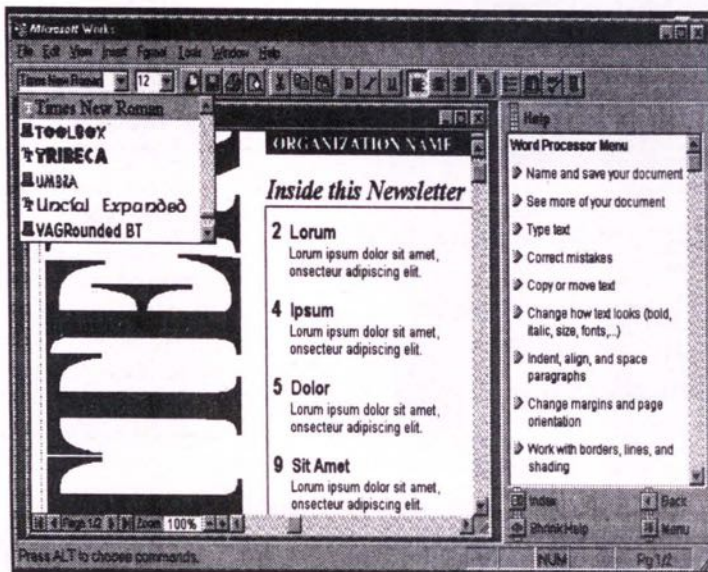
is a program that demands quite a bit more resources. While Works 3.0 needed about 13 megs of hard drive space, Works 4.0 wants up to 31 megs. (You can get it down to less than 6 megs, by dumping all the Help and Wizards, the spell check and other tools, and all the import and export filters... but that would be a pretty bare-bones installation). The program will run with 6 megs of RAM, but really (like Windows 95 itself) prefers at least 8 megs.

And there's a bit of a problem— in the past, many users of programs like Works chose it to use on home machines or notebooks— often machines with limited ram and hard drive space. I can't recommend Windows 95 for machines with 4 megs of RAM, and similarly, users with older or less powerful machines will have to put off upgrading to programs like this until they either beef up their current computer, or replace it with something more powerful. And in that case, many users will choose to go all the way— moving up to a much more demanding, but also more powerful suite such as MS Office, Novell Perfect Office, or Lotus SmartSuite.

And that's too bad— there's a lot to like in Works 95... and many users who get suites find that they only use a fraction of those program's features. Since Works can share document files with most of the big suites, it can be an easy-to-use, attractive alternative for many users, providing most of the features users really need, with less cost or overhead.

It's on sale currently for under \$100 (Cdn), but that price is supposed to rise after the New Year. If you get the CD-ROM version, you'll find the classic MS Bookshelf, with 1995 editions of 8 reference texts, included on the disk as a bonus. □

**About the author:** Alan Zisman can be reached at e-mail: alan\_zisman@computer-player.com



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## New Employment Standards Act Will Affect Your Business

Richard K. Acton

The new Employment Standards Act comes into effect this fall. The new Act replaces the old Act and will have an impact on all businesses in British Columbia.

### Who and What is Covered

The Act has expanded the categories of

employees covered. Many people who were not included in the past are now covered under this Act. This includes fishermen, forest fire fighters, taxi drivers, caretakers and disabled employees. The Act was not extended to cover professionals or independent contractors. The independent contractors issue was a particular concern at the time the legislation was being drafted and it is fortunate, I believe, that it was not extended to them.

The work included has been expanded and now includes work performed at an employee's home. Consequently, an employee who works on his computer at home in the evening, may be entitled to overtime.

As an employer, you must post several notices. These notices will include a statement of the employee's rights under

the Act, shift schedules, a copy of the Employment Standards regulations and any variance orders.

### Don't Forget the Paper

In spite of the politicians continuing promise to reduce the paper burden, this new legislation will increase it. For purposes of the Employment Standards Act, you will now be required to keep the following records for seven years:

- all payroll records
- approval of flexible work weeks.
- substitution of an alternate statutory holiday.
- agreements with employees for reimbursements re cleaning and repair of clothing.

Further, employees must be given a detailed wage statement each time they are paid as opposed to only the times there has been a change in pay.

Again, in keeping with a philosophy of increased bureaucracy and paper flow, employers must now provide the director of employment standards with information to enable him or her to establish and maintain a register of employees in private residences. At this point in time it is not clear whether this will cover employees' residences or employers' residences or both.

### Some Flexibility

The director of employment standards has greater power to grant variances within the regulations. He or she must be satisfied that any variance is consistent with the legislation and that a majority of the employees affected approve of the request. The following variances may now be requested under the Employment Standards Act:

- paydays.
- special clothing.
- notice of change in shift.
- minimum daily hours.
- maximum working hours.
- hours off.
- overtime wages for employees not on a flexible work schedule.
- notice requirements and termination pay requirements for group terminations.
- the time period required for a temporary lay-off.

### Changes in Benefits

Statutory holiday pay will now be pro-rated. Under the previous Act, an employee had to work 15 of the preceding 30 calendar days in order to be paid for the statutory holiday. This has been eliminated and now an employee on the payroll will be paid for the statutory holiday on a pro-rata basis, regardless of the hours worked.

Some issues being legislated are largely common sense and complied with by the majority of employers without legislation. However, for those with a stone-age mentality that need to join the 20th century, the employee has the following entitlements under the new legislation:

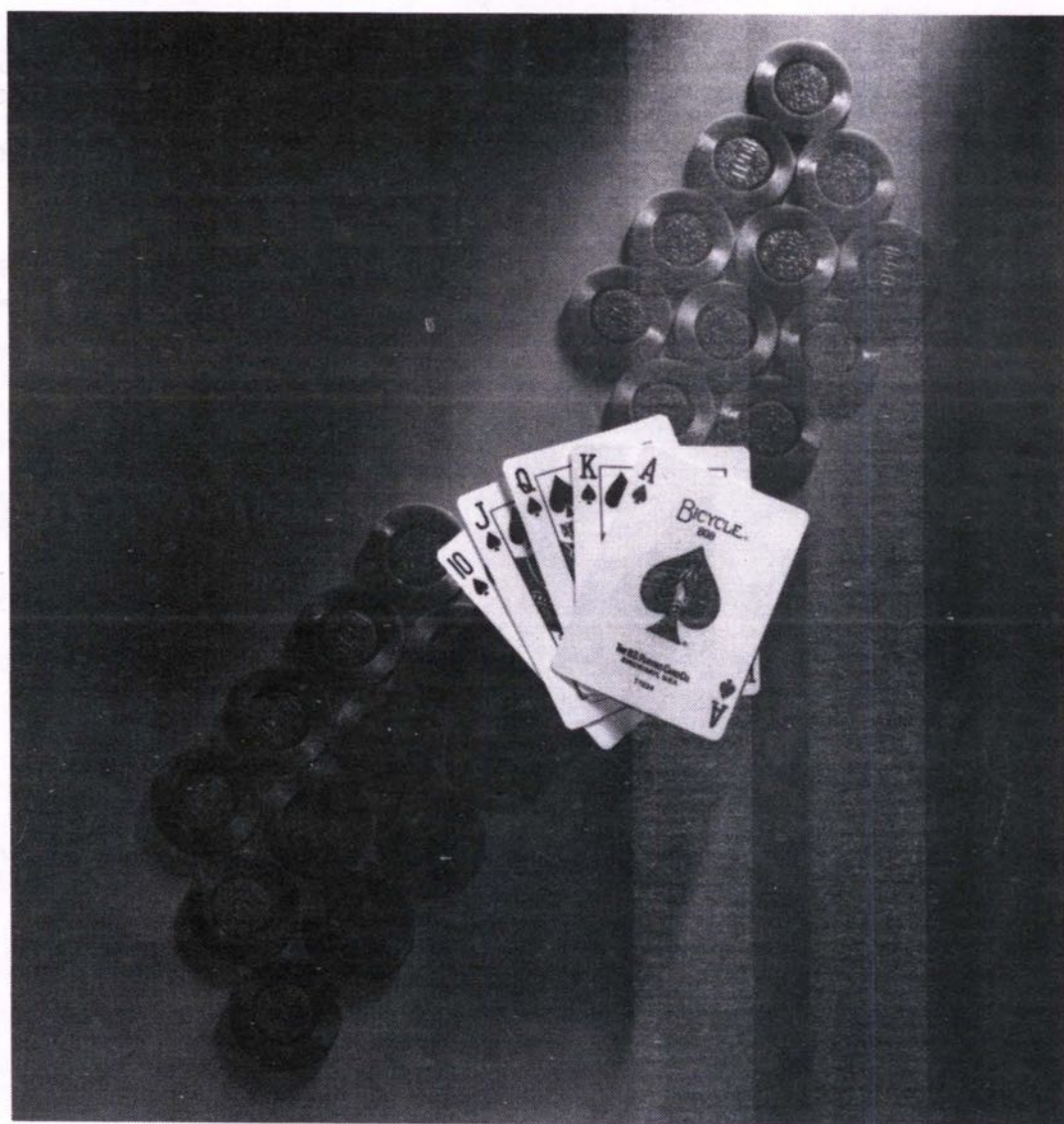
- up to 5 days of unpaid leave during each employment year to deal with matters pertaining to the care, health or education of a child in an employee's care or the care or health of any other member of the immediate family.
- up to 3 days unpaid leave on the death of a member of the employee's immediate family.
- leave of absence to attend court as a juror and to return to the same or comparable position.

The employee's entitlement to vacation, termination notice and benefits will continue during any of the above leaves.

From the employee's point of view, one of the negatives may be that those employers who were paying for the above items may now elect to do so on an unpaid basis as the government sets the standard.

The Act no longer has a provision allowing an employer to force a pregnant woman to go on

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maternity leave. A pregnant employee will now receive the same treatment as an employee with a disability.

### Termination

The Act has set new terms with respect to termination of an employee. An employee is now entitled to the following notice:

- after three months of employment - one week.
- after one year of employment - two weeks.
- after three years of employment - three weeks.

This will continue year by year to a maximum of eight weeks. Under the new Act, notice can be severance pay, notice, or a combination of both. Severance pay must also be paid within 48 hours.

A termination notice will have no effect if the notice period coincides with a period during which the employee is on vacation, leave, strike, or lockout or is unavailable to work because of the strike or lockout or medical reasons.

### Minimum Wage

As the government maintains a large welfare and social services industry, the minimum wage as of October 1st is \$7.00 per hour for all employees. This ensures that employers will move to automate more positions for which this wage is excessive creating more demand for welfare programs.

### Enforcement and Penalties

Complaints must be filed within six months of the date the contravention is claimed to have taken place. Wages which may be claimed are limited to the 24 month period before the earlier date of complaint or

termination. In addition, third parties may now file a complaint on behalf of employees. It is my understanding that in the United States, unions have been very active in filing third party complaints against non-union companies to assist organizing.

Breaches of the Act are an offence which may result in a charge and a fine. There are new measures to penalize employers who contravene the Act including:

- interest payable on money owed from the date it is owed, if it is more than 23 days.
- an employee officer, director, or agent of the company who is responsible for a breach of the Act may be assessed a monetary penalty along with the company.
- The director of employment standards may publish information relating to contraventions of the Act for use by potential employees and contractors.
- if the Act has been contravened, the employer can be ordered to post a bond for payment of wages or supply a letter of credit.

### Personal Liability

A director or officer of a corporation is personally liable for up to two months of unpaid wages for each employee. However, the director is not liable for termination pay, vacation pay or banked overtime.

### Appeals

An employment standards tribunal has been established. This tribunal has the power to determine appeals and to exclude classes of persons from all or part of the legislation or regulations.

### Information Line

The government has established an information line to respond to questions about the new Act and its regulations. In the Lower Mainland, the number is 660-4000 and elsewhere the toll-free number is 1-800-663-3316.

I would like to acknowledge the Canadian Federation of Independent Business of which I am a member, and whose newsletter provided much of the information for me to write this column. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business is a worthwhile organization whose members are independent businesses. Its role is to attempt to influence government on matters affecting the business community. It has enjoyed some degree of success in minimizing the damage that government legislation does to small business.

If you are running a business, I encourage you to join. The annual membership is a worthwhile investment in making politicians, the bureaucracy and others aware of the issues facing small businesses. □

**About the author:** Richard K. Acton, F.C.A. is with Acton Gunderson Chartered Accountants. He can be reached at (604) 734-4871 or (604) 734-9211.

## BOE Trade Fair 95

John Madsen

On Saturday afternoon, November 25th, BOE (Business Opportunities Exchange) will host its fourth annual Trade Fair at the Caribbean Cafe Banquet Room in New Westminster. The event is "economically bilingual" ... which means barter or cash is accepted on purchases.

Barter awareness is increasing in Canada. In 1987 there was hardly any barter presence anywhere but in British Columbia and Quebec. Today, at least 15 barter companies operate in the Toronto area alone. Several of these have opened satellite offices in Vancouver. Industry giant, Portland's ITEX Corp, is supporting Quebec's Troc Canada in its expansion plans.

Barter is basically a marketing tool. It is the "hamburger helper" of business. It stretches cash while bringing in new customers ... two very necessary ingredients for success in any business. Surplus inventory, unproductive assets and excess capacity can be exchanged for valuable products and services. InterNet and BarterWire now facilitate trading on a global basis.

For British Columbians, the annual BOE Trade Fair offers a practical insight into the exciting world of barter. The blending of cash and barter makes it a unique event. Cash is required for all Trade Fair transactions unless a "Bartercard Accepted Here" sign is displayed. Collection in cash, of the applicable Federal Goods & Services Tax and British Columbia Sales Tax, is at the option of the seller.

Doors open at 1 pm. There's no charge for admission, and everyone is welcome at the BOE Trade Fair. Products and services committed include works of art, quality cook books, gourmet sauces, computer software, giftware, media advertising, commercial insurance, gift baskets, health products & services, sales seminars, carpet cleaning, greeting cards & prints, shampoo, music lessons, gift subscriptions, books on business & accounting, plus seasonal plants & flowers.

A very timely gift, incidentally, is a subscription to CANADIAN MONEY SAVER ... Canada's premier personal finance magazine since 1981. It's funded by 30,000 subscribers ... not by paid advertising. This means readers receive practical, unbiased financial information from dozens of experts on Canadian financial planning. Also, they don't have to rely on a single investment adviser.

While the Caribbean Restaurant itself will not be open, refreshments will be available. Coffee or juice is \$1.00 and meat or vegetarian Jamaican Patties are \$2.00 each.

The November 25th BOE Trade Fair offers the opportunity to make your Christmas shopping dollars go further! PLUS you gain a valuable insight on using barter as an effective alternative to cash. Bring your business cards and let others know about your business.

**About the author:** John Madsen, a Chartered Accountant by profession, is President of ITEX Bartercard and may be reached by E-mail at john\_madsen@mindlink.bc.ca or by phone (604) 521-7911 or fax (604) 521-7944

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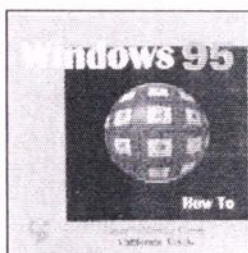
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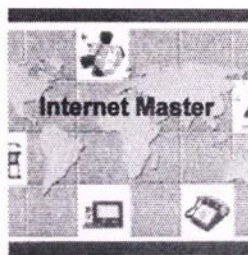
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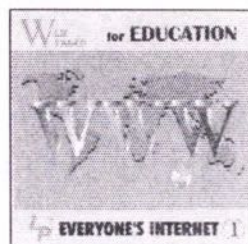
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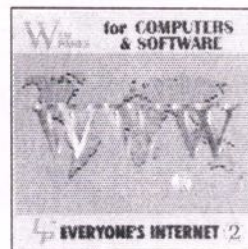
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## Good CD-ROM producers wear many hats

(Continued from page 44)

**CP:** Then...what does it take to be able to produce a good interactive, multimedia product?

**Claudio:** The multimedia producer must be able to perform a wide variety of functions. He or she must be a writer, a video producer, an animation director, a creative director, a project manager and a marketing specialist...to name a few! But please don't get me wrong; I wouldn't want to discourage any future multimedia producers reading this. All of the skills I mentioned can be acquired over time and with experience, or the necessary talent can be hired if budgets permit. The important ingredients required to succeed as a multimedia producer are drive and creativity, as well as the ability to really enjoy learning and working with new technology.

**CP:** Do you actually fulfill all those functions you mentioned?

**Claudio:** Not anymore. Right now I have a team of more than forty talented people who help me to produce our CD-ROM products. But when I started, I basically had to do everything myself. However, I still apply the skills I acquired through the years, to everyday situations which arise here at Microforum.

**CP:** How much money is required to produce a multimedia product?

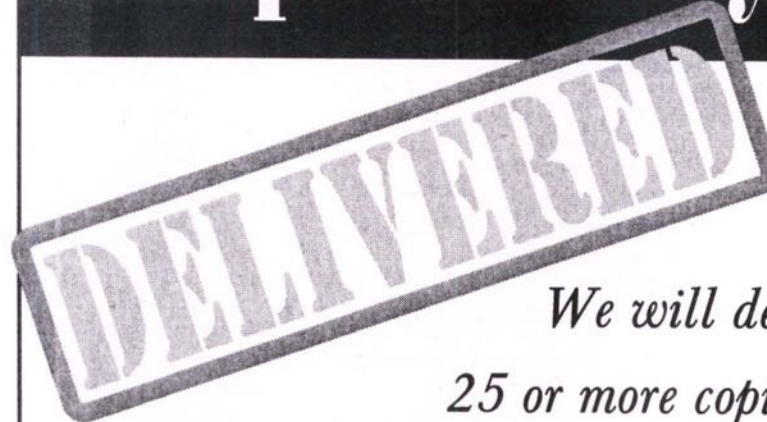
**Claudio:** I have produced products for as little as \$5,000 and as much as \$1 million. Obviously the more money you have, the better chances you have for the product to succeed. But there are ways to produce a CD-ROM economically and still make it a success. The majority of money is usually directed to marketing. Therefore, one way to save money is to form a strategic partnership with a company which can handle distribution. For example, right now we save money on our products by distributing them ourselves in more than 50 countries. We often are approached by smaller multimedia producers to help them market their products.

**CP:** What will the future bring for multimedia production?

**Claudio:** I am convinced that the future of CD-ROM and multimedia production will be as great as the feature film business. Every year the budgets on interactive multimedia production are shooting up and I definitely see a lot of job opportunities materializing in this field in the near future. Microforum is always looking for talented CD-ROM producers. □

**About the author:** Philip Hyams is a freelance communications consultant and writer living in Toronto.

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### Apple Financial Chief Quits

Joseph A. Graziano is leaving as Apple Computer Inc.'s chief financial officer by the end of the year. He is stepping down, he says, "due to differences in opinion with the CEO."

Apple's board of directors reaffirmed its full support for President/CEO Michael H. Spindler during a regularly scheduled meeting of the board on Oct. 3.

Apple Chairman A.C. (Mike) Markkula told the wire service, "The board will continue working with Spindler to address the challenges and exciting opportunities we face in the dynamic personal computer industry. The unprecedented demand for our new products demonstrates the growing appeal of the Macintosh platform. We are committed to actively working with the management team of Apple under Spindler's leadership to create value for our shareholders."

Apple said in a statement that Graziano, executive vice president and chief financial officer, announced his intention to resign as a director effective immediately and leave the company by year end.

On the situation, the Associated Press comments, "Due to a number of missteps, Apple has been unable to keep up with surging demand for its new Power Macintosh line, which was supposed to boost its lagging market share for personal computers. A shortage of parts and chronic underestimation of demand raised speculation that the company's board would look at significant management changes at its regular meeting."

The wire service also notes, "While Spindler has enjoyed Markkula's support and has been credited with engineering the transfer to the Power Macintosh line, some observers have noted that Apple's board ousted John Sculley two years ago at a time of weak profits and doubts about the company's future."

AP quotes Dataquest Inc. figures as indicating Apple's share of the worldwide market — which fell from 9.4 percent in 1993 to 8.5 percent last year — has dropped to 7.4 percent in the current quarter.

### Some Apple Business May Be Sold

Apple Computer Inc.'s highest executive is hinting the computer maker may be forced to sell part of its business in order to focus on more competitive areas.

The New York Times this morning quotes Apple CEO Michael Spindler as saying, "There are crucial decisions that are going to have to be made about letting go of some parts of a business that are quite unnerving to some people including ourselves."

Spindler discounted reports Apple is seeking to merge with another company, acknowledging talks of alliances with IBM and other computer companies had taken place, but said no decisions had been made. "The big question is how we will stand together," he said.

Spindler told the paper his company has made mistakes, but that it will become increasingly profitable. As reported, Apple earlier this year hit production snags and underestimated demand for its Power PC line of computers.

Said Spindler, "This has been the most difficult quarter in the history of

Apple Computer. Give us one strong quarter and all this will go away."

It has been a busy week for Apple. As reported earlier, Joseph A. Graziano announced he is leaving as Apple Computer Inc.'s chief financial officer by the end of the year. He is stepping down, he says, "due to differences in opinion with the CEO." Subsequently it was reported that Graziano's resignation apparently came after he failed to convince the board and Spindler that the mature thing for Apple to do was to sell or merge the company.

### Apple Realigns Subsidiaries

Apple Computer Inc. has moved its Apple USA and Apple Canada subsidiaries into a new geographic division called Apple North America.

Apple says the new division is aimed at leveraging the proximity and market similarities between its U.S. and Canadian regions. James J. Buckley, the former president of Apple USA, has been named president of Apple North America. Peter Jones will remain president of Apple Canada and will report directly to Buckley.

Apple Canada, which was previously part of the Apple Pacific region, will continue to operate as a separate and distinct subsidiary, says Apple, and will maintain its distribution, service, and operations mandate in addition to sales and marketing. The subsidiary will continue to be managed by its Canadian staff.

### New Monitor From Apple

Apple Computer Inc. has begun shipping the Apple Multiple Scan 1705, a 17-inch color display for PC and Macintosh systems.

The US\$819 product offers a 15.8-inch viewable image size, plus a flat-square shadow-mask picture tube with a 0.28 mm dot pitch. A multiple scan technology lets users switch to the resolution most appropriate for the work being done.

For Macintosh users, Apple provides software that allows users to switch between three different viewing modes: Page- Layout, for viewing two full pages simultaneously; Publishing, which provides a 72-dot-per-inch resolution for everyday work; and Presentation, which mimics a 14-inch color monitor.



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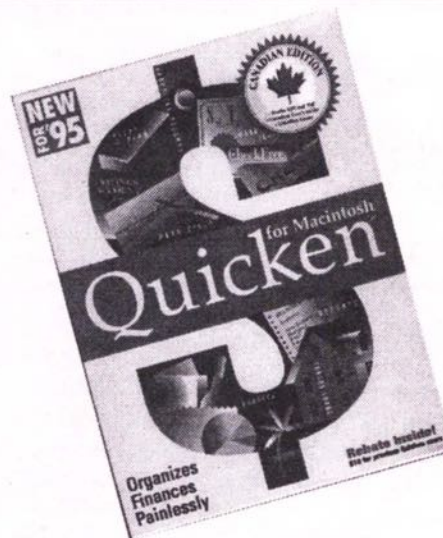
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## Cyrix releases fastest CPU for Windows

Cyrix claims a Winstone 95 performance rating of 217 for its 6x86 processor, formerly called M1, running at 100 MHz. This figure rivals what Intel's Pentiums running at 133 MHz can perform.

The Cyrix 6x86 is a sixth generation superscalar, superpipelined processor. The chip features register renaming, data dependency removal, multi-branch prediction, speculative execution and out-of-order completion capabilities. It has an 80-bit floating point unit and a 16k primary cache. Steve Tobak, VP of corporate marketing at Cyrix said, "the bottom line is that no processor today runs Windows software faster than the 6x86."

Meanwhile, a sixth-generation chip from Intel, the Pentium Pro, is scheduled to be introduced later this year in powerful desktop workstations for engineers and scientists and in servers.

PC Magazine tests report computers with a version of the new 6x86 ran 30 percent faster than computers using Intel's current Pentium.

Analyst Antoine Tristani of Southcoast Capital Corp. in Austin says he expects Cyrix's sales to nearly double to US\$482 million next year, compared with a projected \$263 million this year. "This is the first time that anyone has been at the high-end of Intel in the history of microprocessors. Now that they have a product that is compatible and with very high performance, the question is manufacturing capacity."

For more information, contact Future Active Industrial at (800)665-5488.

## Epson combines Ethernet with fax/modem in PCMCIA

Epson announces availability of a PCMCIA Type II card with Ethernet and fax/modem functionality. The card comes in two models, each with twisted pair 10Base-T Ethernet. 10Base-2 co-axial cable versions will be available. The ELF 14NA has a data rate of 14.4Kbps and the ELF 28NA runs at 28.8Kbps.

The card runs LAN and fax/modem functions at the same time, eliminating the need to exit applications between functions.

The cards support OS/2 Warp and use special drivers that allow simultaneous functionality with current Card and Socket services and includes NDIS and ODI card services clients. The ELF is compatible with V.32bis and V.34bis depending on the data transfer speed. It also supports MNP-10EC for cellular users.

## Intel intros new mobile chip set

Intel of Canada introduced its mobile PCI chip set with the 82430MX PCIsset, a PCI chip set designed to maximize the full potential of Pentium based mobile computers. The 82430MX lets high-speed Ethernet and audio and graphic intensive applications run faster on mobile platforms. Windows apps can run up to 30% faster.

## CDIS offers at home study of multimedia

Centre for Digital Imaging and Sound, located in Burnaby, BC is offering HELP or Home Extended Learning Program. This 12 month program allows students to take home a workstation with all the software to produce multimedia and computer based graphics work. This allows people to take a course and still work or meet other obligations that would prevent them from attending classes on a regular basis. Students also have access to a lab

with ancillary equipment such as scanners, CD recorders, printers, high end digital video capture and personal animation recorders. CDIS 604-298-5400

## 10Mountain jacked to 'net at 10Mbps

If you find jacking into the 'net way too slow, drop by 10Mountain and surf the 'net at 35 times the speed of your average 28.8 modem. Located at #10-435 Columbia St. near the Columbia SkyTrain station in New Westminster, 10Mountain rents time on Pentium 90s running Windows95 with 17" monitors plugged into the 'net with 10Mbps connections for 30 cents a minute. You can also use 486 machines for 20 cents a minute. Internet accounts start at \$5 per month or \$50 a year and advertisers can have their own Web page for \$30 per year. 10Mountain also designs Web pages, offers word processing (in many languages) and accounting. They also rent cellular phones by the day. 10Mountain 604-525-4773.

## Intel's vision of the near future

Dr. Andrew Grove, president and CEO of Intel Corp. unveiled at Telecom 95 in Geneva, Switzerland his company's vision of communications and computing with a keynote speech and demonstration of "Smart Connections."

The term refers to the digital nature of communications and having a computer at either end of a telecommunications line.

"In the emerging new communications /computing industry, digital is the way in which people create information, send it to one another and play it back for viewing. They are doing this using the most ubiquitous digital device ever, the PC," said Dr. Grove.

Using a new multipoint ProShareT personal conferencing product, two community hospitals were linked to the Geneva audience to demonstrate how an ordinary PC combined with digital telecommunications infrastructure can improve the delivery of medical care in South Africa. The three-way exchange of medical data utilized Intel's ProShare VS200 Conferencing system, an HP 120-MHz Pentium PC and using ISDN, microwave and satellite communications technologies. A similar demonstration was done in a business context with a connection to a Japanese company and ideas were exchanged on a design. Dr. Grove then demoed a cellular global systems for mobile (GSM) modem with wireless technology from Nokia to conduct a full voice, data and video conference across the cellular connection on a laptop.

Real-time voice chat with synchronized lip movements was demonstrated over the Internet with a product from Enter Television Inc. A home page allowed one user to talk in real time with two others as talking heads.

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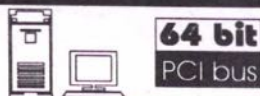
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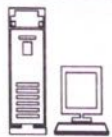
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# TOP LINK



# Smart shopping tips

## for the quasi computer-literate

Yves Millette

It seems that high-tech has infiltrated every aspect of our lives these days. We talk about computers at the office, at cocktail parties, in our homes and at our schools, and we argue about PCs and notebooks, compatibility and storage, upgrades and bundles, software and firmware. But the truth is that for many of us, purchasing computers and peripherals has become incredibly challenging. Options have increased, buying considerations have become more complex, and we are never quite sure who to listen to when soliciting advice. Indeed, surviving in the high-tech world has become quite a bit of a challenge, and we are forced to admit that our computer know-how gets stretched whenever we head to the retailer to purchase our next computer,

peripheral or software. So in an effort to increase our collective know-how, I'd like to lay out a few key considerations that need to be made before purchasing a new computer.

### The Computer

#### Processor Speed and Compatibility.

The most talked-about component in any computer is the central processing unit (CPU), or the brains of the computer; microprocessor speed is measured in megahertz. Generally speaking, the faster the microprocessor, the quicker it will run your applications. Most current desktop PCs feature either 486- or 586-class microprocessors, with speeds ranging from 50 megahertz (MHz) to 133 MHz. However, most major CPU manufacturers are beginning to shut down production of the slower 486-

class CPUs. This means the majority of desktop systems available today feature a Pentium-class (586) processor running in the neighborhood of 60 to 120 MHz. New P6-class CPUs (686) with speeds of 133 MHz and beyond will be available in early 1996.

Compatibility is a bit more complicated and can be expressed in two ways: compliance with the industry-standard "x86" microprocessor architecture developed by Intel Corporation, and compliance with widely used operating systems and software programs such as Microsoft's Windows 3.X, Windows 95 and Windows NT, as well as the Apple Macintosh System 7. Fundamentally, if the microprocessor you choose is not compatible with a microprocessor in your previous computer, or it doesn't support your previous operating system, it's likely that you'll have a hard time converting programs and applications over from your old computer to the new one.

Some of the newest microprocessors enhance multitasking capabilities — that is, performing several functions simultaneously in one or more applications. This may be important to users who frequently run more than one program at a time — for example, marketing specialists who want to draft a new corporate brochure while printing out a 1,000-name mailing list. But multitasking is dependent on the operating system and available RAM, so if you aren't interested in speed for your applications, it's likely that you'll never realize any benefit by adding it to your checklist.

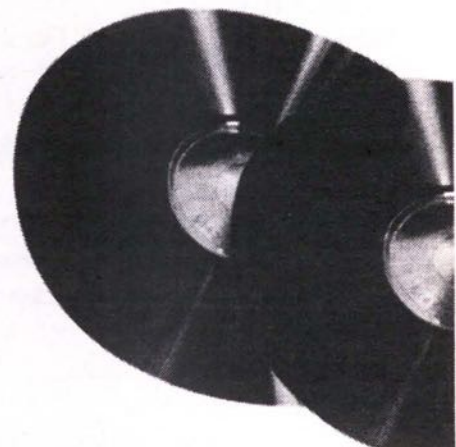
#### System Memory (RAM).

System memory is used as a temporary holding place from which the microprocessor draws data and instructions while performing computations; the more system memory, the better the performance of your computer.

Today's average PCs are configured with 4 to 8 megabytes (MB) of RAM, while a more expensive system may have as much as 128 MB. In today's competitive PC market, many computers now provide room for additional RAM, and if the model you are considering doesn't allow at least twice the current system RAM, be wary — you may need a minimum of 8 MB RAM as you become more proficient in the use of your computer.

#### Hard Disk Drives.

One of the most competitive features on any computer system is the hard disk drive. Today, a mainstream PC will typically have a hard disk drive capacity ranging from 540 MB to 1 Gigabyte, or to put it differently, the equivalent of 500 to 1000 floppy discs. The more expensive models may have capacities approaching 2 Gigabytes. Disk drive manufacturers are recommending that you buy as much capacity as you can afford, and while they have a vested interest in saying so, there's more than a profit motive for this recommendation. The newest 32-bit operating systems and associated applications alone require more capacity than was even available just a couple of years ago. Add to that your user files and downloaded files from online services and the Internet, and you'll quickly consume a large portion of your hard disk. In fact, if you are a frequent user of multi-media presentation soft-



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ware or graphics development programs, it's a good idea to buy a tape drive to back up your hard disk on a regular basis.

### CD-ROM.

A large number of new desktop PCs now include CD-ROM drives as standard equipment, primarily because vendors of operating systems and application software are turning to CD-ROM as the medium of choice for transporting their programs to end users. In fact, the variety of high-quality applications, games, multimedia and educational software titles available on CD-ROM has grown tremendously in recent years.

Today, the two primary types of CD-ROM drives are dual speed (2x) and quad-speed (4x) CD-ROM. Both use laser-optic techniques for reading data from the disk. Originally designed for capacity rather than speed of access, the 2x version of these drives are notoriously slow, especially when it comes to accessing multimedia programs with video clips. Users generally find a dramatic performance improvement by purchasing computers with 4x CD-ROM drives.

### Modems.

If you intend to be surfing the net or staying in constant contact with the corporate office, you'll need a modem. Current modem speeds (expressed as kilobaud per second) range from 2400

bps to 2800 bps. In general, the faster the better, but if you're not going to be transferring intensive graphics files or very large data files, you may not need the fastest modem, although its a good idea to have at least 14.4 Kpbs.

### Keyboards and Pointing Devices.

Most desktop keyboards are industry-standard 101-key models including QWERTY keypad, function keys, cursor control and numeric pad. New add-on keyboards are available that provide

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### PC Cards.

These devices, also known as PCMCIA Cards, pack a variety of peripherals into a plastic-encased device about the size of a playing card. Among the peripherals typically included in PC Cards are adapters for wired and wireless local area networks (LANs), as well as hard disks, flash memory devices, fax/modems and more. Some of these peripherals fit in Type I PCMCIA cards (the thinnest available); others require a Type II or Type III card slot. If you are going to use PC Cards (to transfer files between desktop and notebook computer systems, for example), be sure that the computer you buy has card slots adequate for the PC Cards you intend to use.



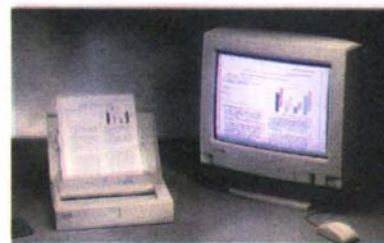
*The ES-1000C 30-bit Colour Scanner*



*The ActionNote 880CX Notebook PC*



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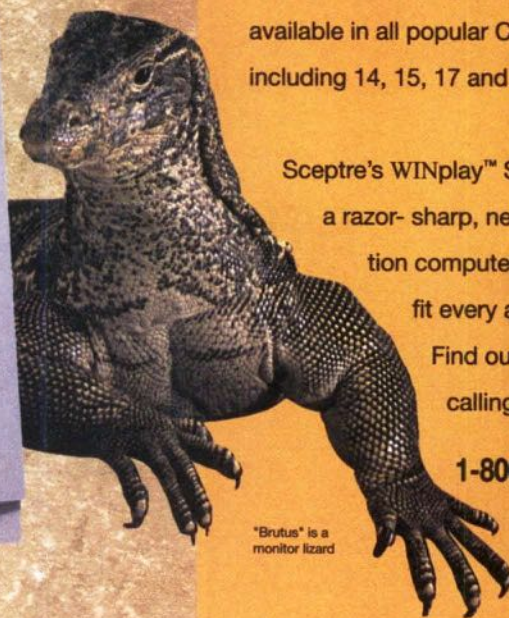


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substantial ergonomic benefit. Most of these feature some variation on a contoured or hinged keyboard, enabling more natural hand and wrist positioning and reducing repetitive stresses.

There are also several new devices competing with the old "mouse"-type pointing device. While most of these devices are now used only in notebook computing systems, you can expect some of

them to show up on desktop PCs in the near future. Examples include stylus-and-finger-touch screens, as well as touchpads and trackballs.

#### Software Bundles.

A large number of computer vendors offer a wide variety of software packages that are preloaded onto their computers. But if you already have an adequate selection of software that you intend to transfer onto

the new computer, these bundles may be much more than you want. So, before you select your system, determine what software you will or will not need; you may prefer simply to buy a system without any pre-configured software.

#### Monitors.

Nearly every monitor or display is compatible with all current PC models.

SVGA monitors are more expensive and generate higher resolution images by using up to 1280 x 1024 pixels or dots with a minimum of 256 color variations (some monitors support "TrueColor," or application-specific color variations). VGA monitors can generate 648 x 480 pixel images in up to 16 colors. There's also a wide variety of screen sizes available, with an average range of 14 to 20 inches. If you're planning to use your system for engineering or design, multimedia editing or publication production applica-

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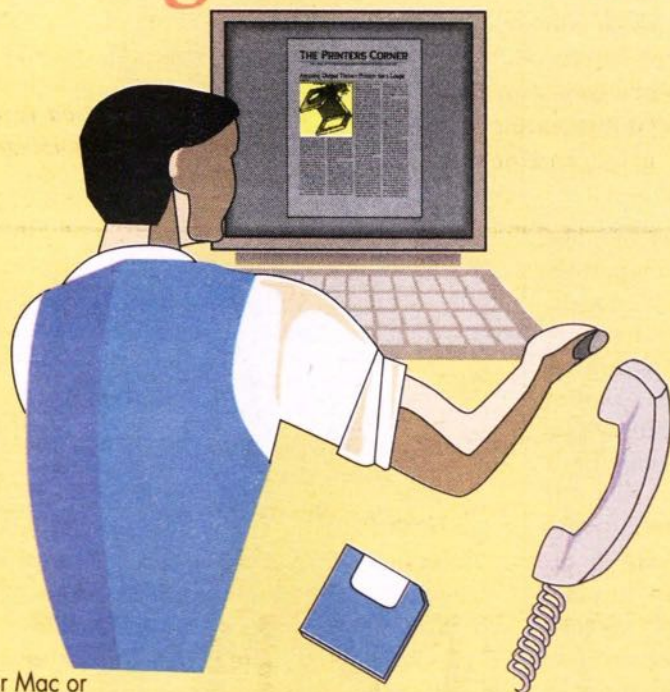
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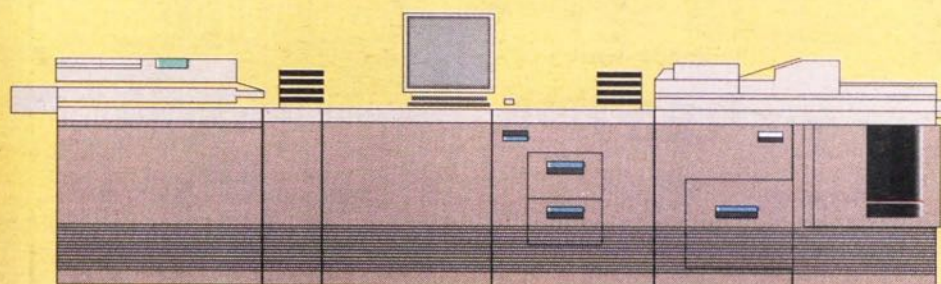
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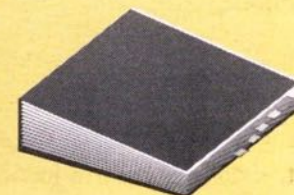
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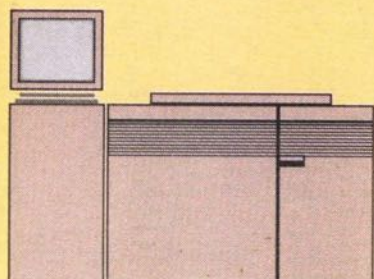


...binding & collating with heavy covers (Technical manuals, short run books)



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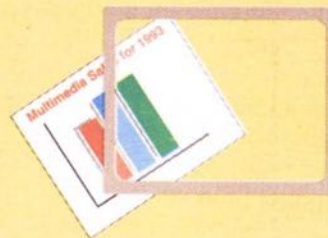
### COLOUR



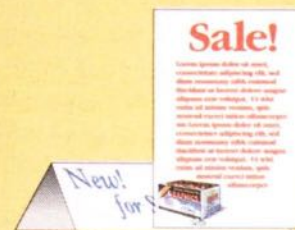
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tions, you'll want the largest available monitor with TrueColor support and the highest possible pixel density for maximum performance and display quality.

### Peripherals

Users who want to purchase additional peripherals should plan ahead for them when purchasing the computer itself.

#### Printers.

Current print technologies include ink jet, laser, and dot matrix. Ink jet printers are faster and quieter than dot matrix printers, and with recent advances in ink jet technology, photo-quality color output rivals the output quality of multi-thousand dollar laser printers for a fraction of the cost. If color printing is not as high on your priority list as cost, a dot matrix or a low-cost monochrome laser may be a more appropriate solution. Dot matrix printers are extremely durable and compatible, offer quality text output, and are very useful in applications such as check and form printing, while lasers are exceptionally quiet, offer a crisp image, and print at the fastest speeds. As with other peripherals, the most important consideration when purchasing a printer is usage. Ink jet, laser and dot matrix all provide quality output, so you must first determine how you will use your printer, whether or not you need color, and then select the printer that provides the best price/performance to meet your needs.

#### External Peripherals.

The variety of available peripheral devices is growing steadily. Examples include CD-ROM players, modems and fax/modems, scanners, speakers and microphones, infrared and barcode readers, digital cameras and more. If you think you will need one or more of these devices, make sure your computer's peripheral interface will accommodate it. Also, be sure that your computer has

adequate system memory, storage capacity and processing power to accommodate the increased data throughput which some of these peripherals create.

### Conclusion

Terminology aside, purchasing a computer system has

become more difficult as options have increased and as functionality and technology have become more affordable. The good news is, the bottom line is relatively straightforward: determine what base configuration you need and what options you want, and then select the system that meets your expectations for price and performance. □

**About the author:** *Yves Millette* has served as the Vice President, Sales & Marketing for Epson Canada since 1990. Epson Canada is affiliated with Seiko Epson Corporation, a global manufacturer and supplier of high quality technology products that meet customer demands for increased functionality, compactness, systems integration and energy efficiency.

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## Effective marketing in **CyberSpace**

JD Miller

Galaxy Communications was approached by a web directory company. They were offered all the advantages of this new medium and promised the exposure to a 35 million user marketplace. After several months

of world wide exposure, Galaxy had only received two or three hits on their page. They had been left hanging in cyberspace.

There are many companies offering a new and exciting way to advertise and approach new and international markets through the world wide web. They will build your page(s) and include them in their directory - for a fee. This is all well and good but a very minimal approach to establishing your company in front of a potential 35 million people. For example, the most common sales pitch for web pages today is that your page will be included in a site that gets a great number of hits. In other words, a high traffic area on the web. However, you cannot guarantee that people will "hit" your page! You have to hope that the users come to your page or pay more for placement on one of the top level or entry pages to the site to bolster your chances of traffic. You can only entice people to hit your pages but they can choose to surf where they want. You may want your web pages included in this site as part of your overall web marketing strategy. However, beware of the sales pitch offering web presence with high traffic because there is more to marketing your company on the web than being included in one high traffic web site or directory.

How will people find you on the internet? How can you interact with potential clients? How can you get your message across and invite people to surf your web pages? You need an internet marketing strategy.

Any web publisher should be able to offer this type of consultation. However, many are not interested in providing this service only publishing pages and many are not qualified to offer marketing consultation. There's more to internet marketing than a few announcements in newsgroups, inclusion in search engines or directories. On the web, marketing is as critical as solid technical background to a successful web presence, promotion or event.

### Domain Names

You already have well designed pages utilizing the characteristics of the web to your advantage and taking particular consideration to your company's image and presentation. Before you publish your pages you need to consider a domain name (URL). This is the address that people need to locate you on the internet. Keep it short, relevant and as unique as possible. Domain names are not merely addresses but convey certain images to the users before they even see your pages! The domain name you

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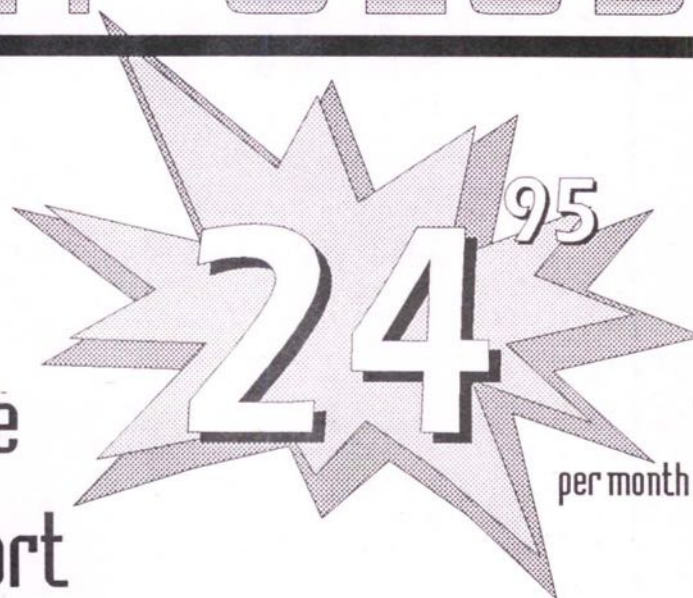
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choose may not necessarily be your company name but it is important to give considerable thought to the one you do choose because it is the first thing a user learns about your company. Registration of a domain name was free up until month ago. Now it will cost you \$100US to register. Some providers charge to have your own domain name on their servers and others offer it free of charge. However, any cost (\$25-\$50 / month) is minimal when you consider the marketing advantages of having your own unique web address.

### Search Engines & Databases

There are over 80 search engines and databases that you can search for URL's on the web.

You need to have at least 5 good keywords and cross referencing terms in the top 5 search engines.

Having your company in Sun Microsystems InfoSeek, the search engine directly connected to Netscape's Search menu means your accessible to everyone using Netscape. Inclusion in this database is accomplished by submission to Info Seek. This takes time so the costs reflect the amount of time it takes to submit to each search engine or they may be included in the costs of your web page creation. Submitting your URL to Netscape's and Mosaic's "What's New" pages is also necessary and simple.

### Usenet Newsgroups

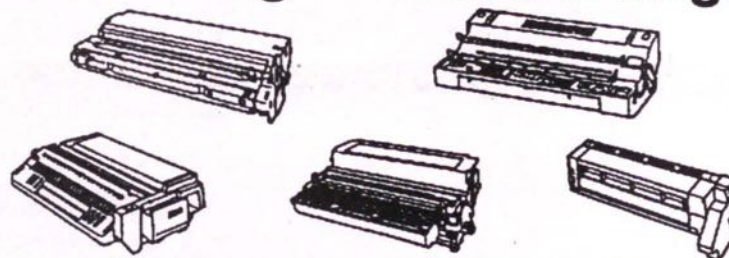
Announcements (posting) in relevant Usenet newsgroups about the "grand opening" of your web pages is also an excellent way to present your company to the large groups of people on the internet. These too need careful consideration. The title of your posting is the first thing anyone sees. In order for them to want to read what you have to say you have to invite them. Why would I want to read this posting? It's not enough to only post an announcement if no one will read it. Many newsgroups are very busy and not all the postings may be read.

It maybe advantageous to open your own newsgroup. There are two ways to do this. In a larger busier newsgroup invite the regular readers to vote on the possibility of creating a new group which focuses more closely on aspects of the existing newsgroup. If there is enough interest then it is possible to branch off with some readers. Then you can market that newsgroup for people

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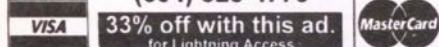
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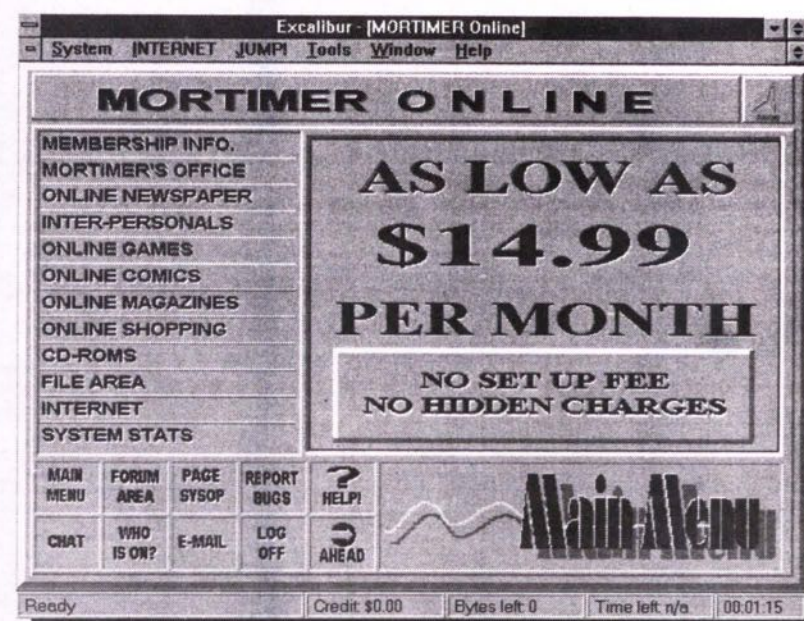
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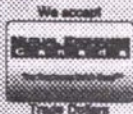
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to join. Secondly, you can consult with your ISP and create a new group off of one of the hierarchies in the Usenet and invite people to join. Either way you can create a forum for discussion around your industry or product. This can be a powerful way to provide a very useful platform for delivering and monitoring industry developments and news.

#### E-mail

E-mail is probably one of the most abused methods of distributing information but also one of the most effective. Offering to mail people more information or to join a mailing list off your web pages can be an excellent resource for business contacts. Developing an e-mail newsletter that is distributed monthly to users who have already agreed to accept it gives you a captive audience. It is relatively easy and inexpensive to develop. E-mail newsletters provide a vehicle for your company to project a secure and intelligent image as well as providing business resources or industry intelligence. Simply networking with people through e-mail on the web is also an excellent method for connecting with people.

#### Signature Files

The use of a signature file (SIG file) can provide another avenue of introduc-

tion to your company. Your SIG file is the several lines of text which will appear on your Usenet postings and your e-mail. Typically they include company names, phone numbers, addresses, alternate e-mail addresses, the URL of your home page, achievements or projects with which you are involved. They can also include slogans, favorites quotes or ASCII art! Whatever you decide to include in your SIG file remember to keep it smaller for downloading purposes and clearly lay them out for ease of reading. More than once I've looked at SIG files for mailing addresses and phone numbers of people I wanted to contact or for the correct spelling of a company name. They provide key information for clients and present your company's vital contact information.

#### Traditional Marketing on the Web

Apart from the various electronic methods of marketing which require careful thought and strategic implementation, there are several simple ways for companies to market on the net. For example, buy an advertising spot on Netscape's "What's Cool!" page. Netscape's pages are frequented by everyone on the globe every minute of the day. All a user has to do is click on the icon bar and they go directly to your pages. There are many free directories

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### Comprehensive Marketing Strategies

Finally, marketing approaches on-line need to be coordinated with your real world marketing. Cross promotion between your print advertising and web pages can draw people to your web pages and into your storefront. Publish your URL on your business cards and company literature. Creative radio and TV advertising can connect your on-line marketing with your other marketing approaches and provide excellent exposure and promotion.

What happened to Galaxy Communications? They approached a professional web publishing company to develop their pages and an internet marketing strategy. They created a web site which clearly presented the company

and it's products and invited interested people to contact them. Within days of the first phase of their marketing strategy Galaxy was receiving daily hits on their pages. Within four months, the business generated through the web site had paid for the new computer system they installed! Galaxy Communications has had the opportunity to bid on several six figure contracts since their web initiative which they otherwise would never had even known about.

Internet marketing strategies can be simply a few announcements in newsgroups and submissions to search engines. They can also be much more comprehensive and creative in order to not only invite people to your web site but to keep them coming back. There are definite and tested ways of creating traffic at your companies site and traffic is what you need if you don't want to be frustrated with your first experience on the web.

So, you now have people contacting you, requesting information, wanting to purchase your product and services. Next month we'll look at conducting business on the web: How you can use the web to manage a virtual office. □

**About the author:** JD Miller is the principal of Vancouver Internet Publishing and can be reached at je3d@van.com

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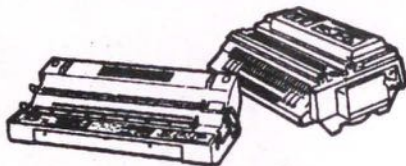
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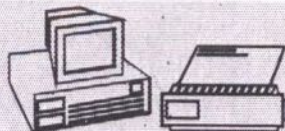


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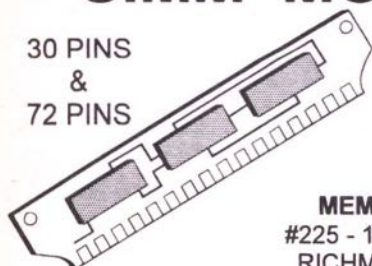
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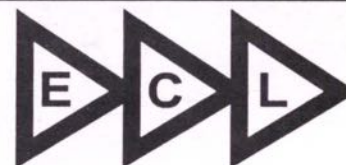
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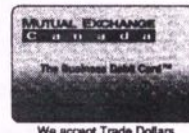
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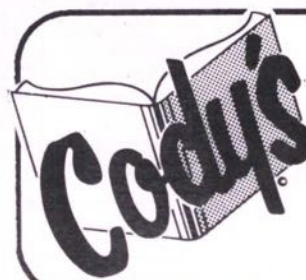
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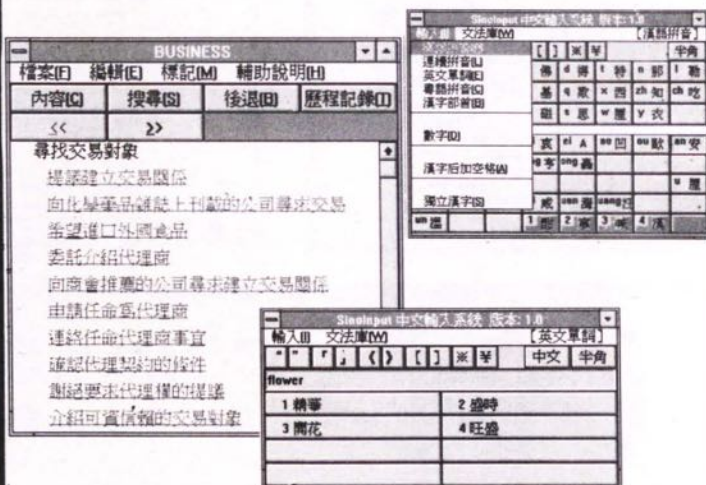
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## 到使用視窗 95 的時候了

微軟公司作了大力推廣宣傳的 Windows 95 終於在 8 月 24 日登場了。在此以前已經有專業和義務的測試工作者對它作了不少測定報告。認為 Windows 95 的性能是良好, 穩定的。所以上市以來銷售情況良好。現在不少原來對此事並不關心的用戶, 也受到了影響, 想了解一下, 如果把 WINDOWS 3.1 升級到 Windows 95 將會取得什麼樣的效果; 為此需要對硬體和軟體作些什麼變動? 我們在這里作一些簡短的介紹。提供有這種要求的讀者作參考:

1. Windows 95 的特點: 它是 32 位元的操作系統, 真正能執行多項任務, 例如正在卸載 (Download) 檔案時, 同時在編輯一個檔案, 還可以對磁碟進行格式化。減少了等待的時間。

特別明顯的好處是:

A. 運行速度快了; 以前經常發生的資源不夠, 打開了三、四個應用軟體時就會發生資源告急的情況不存在了; 當記憶體為 16MB 時, 不需要在硬碟建立 Swapfile, 運行時較少進入硬碟, 速度自然就提高了。

B. 檔案名可以超過 DOS 的規定, 不限制在 8 個字和三字的尾綴而是 255 個字以內;

C. 即插即用 (Plug and Play, 縮寫為 PnP)。當用戶需要在電腦上添置一台光碟機或數據機時該怎麼辦, 那必須查清它是否需要使用和使用哪一種界面卡, 它需要佔用哪些資源, 例如中斷要求 (IRQ), DMA 通道及輸入/輸出 (I/O) 位址等。萬一多一個設備爭用某個資源時該怎麼辦? 以往就要調整界面卡上的選擇裝置 (一般為組合開關及跳線器)。最後還要正確地向操作系統載入驅動程式。因此許多用戶們對這一類工作望而生畏, 不敢碰。現在的所謂 "即插即用" 功能就是設計出讓電腦系統能夠協調系統資源和周邊設備間的關係, 進而使周邊與電腦的其他部分溝通。改變了前述必須掌握一定專業知識才能做的麻煩工作。也就是在 PnP 環境下, 系統會依據周邊設備或其界面卡分配資源, 並且能根據具體情況自動作調整。Windows 95 宣稱他們可以做得更好。它會根據新的界面卡分配資源後, 正確地載入其所需的驅動程式。

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這個功能實際至少要在三個方面都符合 PnP 規格:它們分別是系統的 BIOS,操作系統和外加的周邊設備。符合 PnP 的 BIOS 已經在一年前就作為多數新的系統的標準配置,第一個符合 PnP 要求的周邊設備界面卡也在一年多以前問世,現在 Windows 95 的發行就使這個人們向往已久的 PnP 功能終於能實現了。根據一些測試報告所說的是:如果三者均符合 PnP 要求的話,確實是起到了即插即用的效果;但是當插上的是傳統的界面卡時,就並不完全能成功。不過畢竟比原來的情况簡便多了。隨著生產廠商不斷改善界面卡,系統與 PnP 的相容性,在系統上添加設備也必然會越來越簡便以至真的實現 PnP。

D. 視窗的分辨率隨時可以轉換(Resolution Switching):用滑鼠右鍵擊桌面,選擇 Properties 及 Setting 就可以在不重新起動的情況下轉換分辨率和全彩色以內的色彩數。如果想變換色彩的濃度則要重新起動 Windows。Windows 95 有三十多種新的特色,不在這里一一介紹。

## 2. 硬件要求:

A. 最好是采用 Pentium 75-100 以上的 CPU。

B. MS 曾提到過,32 位元的視窗應用軟體將會比現在的 16 位元視窗的應用軟體需要多佔用 25% 至 50% 的記憶體。現在它能執行多個任務,就更需要有多分多的記憶體,所以應該考慮到采用不少於 16MB。

C. 硬碟:Windows 95 需要佔用的硬碟空間,對於新安裝的用戶,最低需要是 30MB,安裝全部功能則是 65MB;假如是覆蓋原來的 Windows 3.1 的方式,則最低要增加 23.5MB,裝足的要增加 48MB。對於使用 16MB 以上的記憶體時,以前需佔用硬碟約 20MB 空間的 Swapfile 可能已經不需要了。所以為 Windows 95 多佔用的空間大約為 30MB。用戶的硬碟如果不夠大,由於 32 位元的應用軟體都比較龐大,以後將會發現硬碟的空間很緊張。因此,有條件能換用至少為 850MB 的硬碟才比較合適。

3. 如果仍舊使用 16 位元的軟體將會怎樣:一般的 16 位元應用軟體都還能運行,而一些 16 位元的清除病毒軟體,加強檔案管理的軟體(例如 Norton Desktop)極可能無法執行的。有測試報告提到,Adobe Illustrator 4.0 視窗版及 Tropical Publishing 的 999+ Truetype 字型視窗版在 Windows 95 中無法啟動。

如果用了 16MB 記憶體,那麼即使仍舊使用 16 位元的應用軟體速度也會有所改善。減少記憶體,速度會降低,甚至比以前使用 Windows 3.1 時慢一些。

4. Norton 公司及時地發行了 32 位元的防毒軟體 Norton AntiVirus 和有名的診斷及修復工具集合 Norton Utilities。前者除了掃描及清除病毒以外,還有使系統產生免疫力的功能。後者除了仍舊有強大的診斷和修復功能,其 Disk Doctor 和 System Doctor 還可以常駐值勤,定期掃描和對硬碟重整,另外還帶有兩張可以在 16 位元系統運行的應急救援程式 Rescue 碟,其 Startup 具有診斷,修復功能;Turnup 則可以在安裝 Windows 95 以前檢測系統資源和周邊設備界面及優化硬碟,使安裝工作能更加順利。

5. 安裝以前,用戶為了使自己格外地放心,除了對重要的文件做備份以外,還可以利用 MS 替用戶留下的退路,在使用後感到不合意時,可以恢復到原來的狀態。因此在安裝 Windows 95 時,它會詢問用戶是把原來的 Windows 3.1 覆蓋掉,還是希望兩者并存。如果選擇前者,它只將 Program.grp 和 Win.ini 等文件保存下來;選擇後者則可以替 Windows 95 另開一個目錄,讓兩者都能運行。這樣,用戶可以放心地使用一陣子,當某一個 16 位元的應用軟體在 Windows 95 上運行不好時還可以轉到 Windows 3.1 去執行。如果一切都很順利,就可以在一段時間以後撤掉 Windows 3.1。要是對 windows 9.5 不滿意,那麼它能让用戶恢復到原來的 Windows 3.1 狀態。

6. Windows 95 還提供一個選擇,讓極個別的有這種要求的用戶在使用 Windows 95 時繼續採用 Windows 3.1 的界面。一般用戶大概不會有這樣的要求的。

7. 由於要讓某些 16 位元的軟體繼續能夠運行,Windows 95 只能犧牲一點性能保留了部分 16 位元碼。因此,它還不是徹底的 32 位元操作系統。同樣地也保留了 DOS 的存在。

8. 它也有些不足之處,例如恢復誤刪(Undelete),恢復錯誤的格式化(Unformat)功能沒有保留。它也沒有自己帶防毒的軟體。

體。16 位元的防毒軟體無法運行。但是 16 位元的病毒卻能入侵它。

對於作桌面排版,電腦輔助設計(CAD)等工作的用戶確實有必要選擇升級為 Windows 95 的行動。如果只是用電腦作輸入和編輯文件,做一般家庭的管理工作,以及低年級學生學習等用途的用戶。對於自己的電腦運行的速度並沒有感到明顯的不滿意,那麼暫時還不必急于作硬體和軟體升級。

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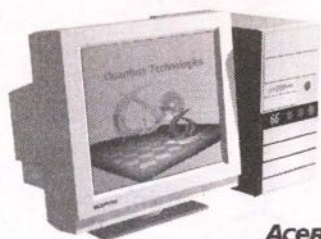


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15" CC-615GL2, 1024x768, 0.28dp	499
15" CC-615GL1, 1280x1024, 0.28dp	529
17" CC-617GL, 1280x1024, 0.28dp	959
17" CC-617GL, 1280x1024, 0.26dp	1,049
21" CS-621, 1600x1200, 0.28dp	2,589
11.4" LCD, CD-1111S, 800x600 DualScan	2,799
10.4" LCD, CD-1111T, 640x480 Active	3,950

### Sceptre Soundx Notebooks

- Integrated SoundBlaster on most models
- Integrated Trackball or Glidepoint
- S2000 features removable floppy with options

TS37 SX/25 Mono, 4MB RAM/260MB	\$1,150
TS37 SX/33 DualScan, 4MB/260MB	1,599
S1000 DX2/66 DualScan, 4MB/340MB	2,848
S1000 DX4/100 DualScan, 8MB/540MB	3,448
S2000 DX4/100 DualScan, 8MB/540MB	3,548
S3000 P/75 DualScan, 8MB/540MB	4,132
S3000 P/90 DualScan, 8MB/540MB	4,275
S3000 P/90 Active, 8MB/540MB	5,244

## Genesis VP

- Pentium/90 Workstation
- Asus TP4XE Triton, Plug 'n Play
- 16MB System RAM, 256k Cache
- Pipelined Burst SRAM socket
- 1GB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive
- ATI Mach64 or Stealth Video 2MB
- NMB Novell Certified Keyboard
- Genesis Tower Case
- Sliding Doors, 2nd Fan Optional
- 1.44MB Floppy, MS Mouse II
- Windows 95 or DOS/Windows

**\$2398**

Leasing Available

## Genesis VX

- Pentium/90 Workstation
- Asus TP4XE Triton, Plug 'n Play
- 16MB EDO System RAM, 256k cch
- Pipelined Burst SRAM socket
- 1GB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive
- ATI Graphics Pro Turbo 2MB VRAM
- NMB Novell Certified Keyboard
- Genesis Tower Case
- Sliding Doors, 2nd Fan Optional
- 1.44MB Floppy, MS Mouse II
- Windows 95 or DOS/Windows

**\$2648**

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## GENESIS

graphic station

### Triton Chipset

Engineered around Asus' Triton chipset board.

### Premium Video

Available options include ATI, Diamond, and Matrox VRAM

### Plug 'n Play

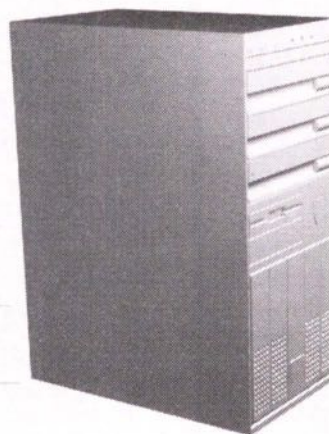
Plug 'n Play Flash BIOS ensures compatibility & ease of use.

### Genesis Case

Dual sliding doors and two fans in a stylish, power case.

### 3 Year Warranty

A 3-year limited warranty, with a next-business day guarantee.



## System Components

### Mainboards

486DX2/66 VLB Complete Upgrade Kit	\$ 229
■ Mixed (30-pin & 72-pin) SIMM sockets	
Acer AP4 486DX4/100 PCI, IDE/IO	339
Acer AP5C Pentium 75-133 PCI, Triton	299
Acer AP5C & Pentium 75	575
Acer AP5C & Pentium 90	695
Acer Pipelined Burst SRAM upgrade	129
Asus P55SP4 P/75-167, takes 1 SIMMs	369
Asus P55TP4 Pentium 75-167 PCI Triton	369
Asus P55TP4 & Pentium 75	645
Asus P55TP4 & Pentium 90	765
Asus P55TP4 & Pentium 100	865
Asus P55TP4 & Pentium 120	1139
Asus P55TP4 & Pentium 133	1339
Asus TP4 Pipelined Burst SRAM upgr	1279
Asus ENP4 EISA/PCI & 2xPentium 90	1599

### Hard Drives

Fujitsu 540MB, Mode 3	\$ 229
Seagate 540MB, Mode 4	239
Maxtor 850MB, Mode 3	299
Seagate 850MB, Mode 4	319
Samsung 1.1GB, Mode 4	339
Quantum 1.1GB, Mode 3	349
Quantum 1.1GB Fast SCSI-2	549
Quantum 2.1GB Capella	1059
Quantum 4.0GB Grand Prix	1659
Seagate 4.0GB Hawk	1629
Micropolis 9.0GB Scorpio	4199
Legacy External SCSI case	179
Adaptec 2940 PCI SCSI card	315
Adaptec 2950 PCI SCSI kit	375
Adaptec 3940 PCI SCSI kit	589
Adaptec 3985 RAID 5, 1.0, 0/1	1059

### Multimedia

SoundBlaster16 Vibra	\$ 109
SoundBlaster32	239
SoundBlaster AWE32 PnP	359
Acer 4xCD-ROM, IDE	219
Toshiba 4xCD-ROM, IDE	239
Panasonic 2xCD-ROM, SB	89
Panasonic 4xCD-ROM, IDE	239
Panasonic 4xCD-ROM, SCSI	339
DoubleSpd Kit (Pan/SB16/Spk)	209
QuadSpd Kit (Acer/SB16/Spk)	329
Cirrus Logic 14.4 Voice/Fax/Data	\$ 99
Zoltrix Internal 28.8 v.34	199
Supra Express 28.8, internal	239
Sportster 14.4, int	119
Sportster 28.8vi voice, callerID, int	309

### Modems

### Network & Connectivity

Windows NT 3.51 Workstation	\$ 395
Windows NT 3.51 Wkstn Upg	125
Windows NT 3.51 Server	875
Windows NT 3.51 Resource Kit	185
Lantastic AI 6.0 DOS/Win	105
Netware 3.12/4.1 CD, 5 user	945
Netware 3.12/4.1 CD, 10 user	2295
GVC NE2000 BNC or 10/T	62
GVC 8-port 10BaseT hub	249
3COM 3C509 ISA BNC or TP	145
3COM 3C590 PCI BNC or TP	255
3COM Linkbuilder-12 TP hub	299
Novell NE2000+ BNC or 10/T	125
Novell NE3300+ EISA Combo	299
Novell NE5500+ PCI Combo	235
Novell EH1200 12-port hub	325
Intel EtherExpress 10/100 PCI	345

## Graphics Emporium

### Video Accelerators

ET4000 1MB	\$ 139
ATI Graphics Xpression, 1MB	199
ATI Graphics Xpression, 2MB	269
ATI Graphics Pro Turbo, 2MB	429
ATI Graphics Pro Turbo, 4MB	659
Stealth64 Video 2120XL, 1MB	199
Stealth64 Video 2120XL, 2MB	269
Stealth64 Video 3240XL, 2MB	429
Stealth64 Video 3400XL, 4MB	669
Matrox Millennium 2MB, max 6MB	455
Matrox Millennium 4MB, max 8MB	665

### Video Capture & Output

Creative VideoBlaster SE-100	\$ 339
Creative ShareVision PC300	849
AverKey, VGA to NTSC ext	249
AverKey II, Video & Audio	349
AverKey III, Genlock	535
AverPro, Video in & out	789
Miro D1, in & out, 24-bit 320x200	449
Miro DC1, in & out, 1600x1200	889
Perception Video Recorder	2699
PVR Capture Daughterboard	1345
Targa 2000 60fps 20MB RAM	8350

### Imaging Software

Calligari Truespace 2.0	\$ 795
Elastic Reality	575
CorelDraw 6.0 upgrade	335
Autodesk 3D Studio v4	3795
Autodesk Animator Studio	825
Macromedia Director	1495
Razor Pro	945
Brother HL641	535
Brother HL660	785
Brother HL1240	1695

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- Generic  
SIMM, SRAM, DRAM, VRAM, PCMCIA  
Parity, Extended Data Out (EDO)

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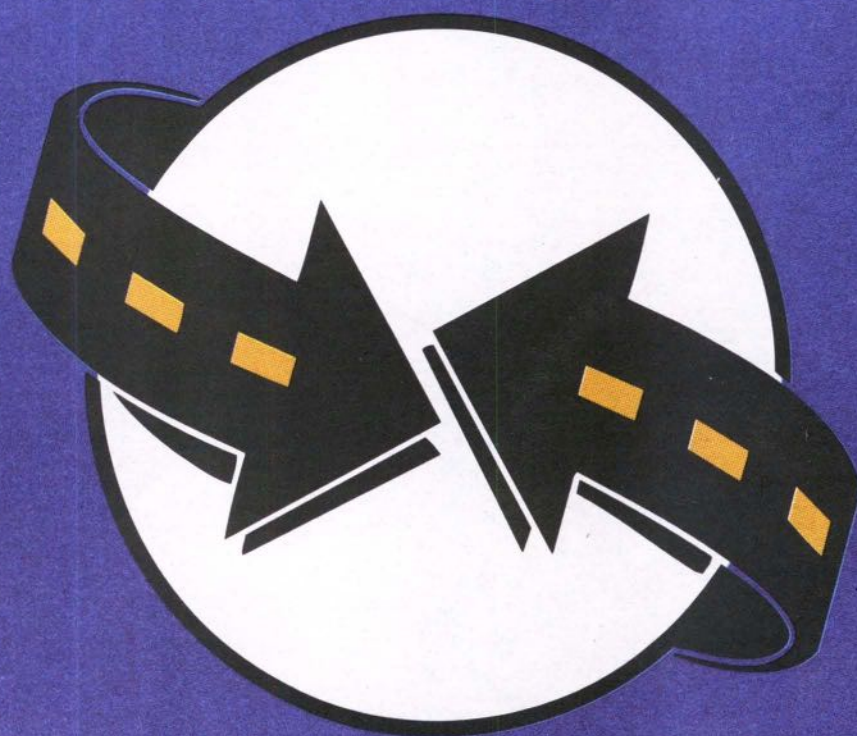


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